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THE WEATHER: Moderate S-E wind. Cloudy with bright periods this afternoon and patches of light rain this evening. Mild.

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COMMENT OF THE DAY

An Outstanding Leader

WHEN chroniclers of a future age set down the history of France in the 20th century, they will undoubtedly discover in the long list of Premiers of the Fourth Republic that one stood out as a Goliath in the muddle and confusion of the nation's politics in the post World War II era. That Premier is, of course, Pierre Mendes-France, whom even headline readers know as the remarkably agile and irrepressible "Mr France". In a little more than six months in office he has to his credit not only the ending of the Indo-China war, but the preparation of a plan for granting a greater degree of self-government to Tunisia (a problem which defied solution by many of his predecessors) and a comprehensive reform plan for the French economy designed to increase national productivity and raise living standards throughout the country.

POLITICALLY he is described as a Radical and a rare brand of radicalism it is, too. When he decided to stamp out alcoholism he fearlessly braved the storm of protests from the wine producers by launching "Drink Milk" campaigns all over the country. And Mr France is no cheap hypocrite. He slips rum himself but when it comes to liquid refreshment he has a clear preference for fresh milk. There is nothing phoney in his personality and as a politician he has demonstrated such remarkable shrewdness and perspicacity that he is certain to be ranked with the greatest of France's 20th century Premiers.

HE is the one person in the National Assembly today who understands and attempts to make allowance for the many shades of political feeling in France. He is a tireless worker and a master tactician and he has been blessed with a golden eloquence and a knife-edged realism which time and time again has converted amorphous feeling within the Assembly into a precise and practical decision. Like a haring sheep dog he is perpetually driving his orderless flock into line. In presenting his policies he seeks, no self-advancement but is genuinely concerned with the welfare of the nation.

WHETHER he succeeds in getting the Assembly to approve the Paris treaties, or not, he has done more than any French Premier since the E.D.C. plan first came into being to bring his country to accept the idea of a rearmaged Germany working in co-operation with its Western European neighbours. Observers say he may succeed but the Deputies are ganging up on him to overthrow his Government early in the New Year. No politician can expect gratitude for any great achievement he may make during his term of office. Churchill found that out at the end of World War II. Pierre Mendes-France doesn't expect gratitude either, but he deserves the thanks of this Free World for his valiant and unselfish attempts to bring about Western unity and for showing France the proper respect.

HAMMARSKJOLD LEAVES TOMORROW

Flying To Peking Via London And New Delhi TO CONFER WITH CHOU ON GAOLED AIRMEN IN JANUARY

United Nations, Dec. 29.

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Dag Hammarskjold, announced he will leave for Peking tomorrow to seek the release of 11 American airmen imprisoned as spies by Communist China.

Mr Hammarskjold will leave New York's Idlewild International Airport accompanied by a party of six.

He will fly to London in a Constellation of the U.S. Military Air Transport Service and stay in the British capital until January 1. He then will fly to New Delhi, India, in a British plane and proceed from there to China in a plane provided by the Indian Government.

Mr Hammarskjold will confer in New Delhi with the Indian Premier, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru. He will leave the Indian capital on January 3 or 4 to proceed to Canton, China. From Canton, he will fly to Peking, possibly in a Chinese plane.

He was scheduled to confer with the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Anthony Eden during his one-day stay in London.

Traveling with Mr Hammarskjold will be Professor Ahmed S. Bokhari, of Pakistan, who becomes Under-Secretary General of the U.N. on New Year's Day. Also in the party will be Per Lind, of the executive office of the Secretary General, a Swede; William E. Dunn, his American personal aide and chauffeur who served in a similar capacity for Trygve Lie when he was Secretary General; Miss Aase Alm, his secretary; Professor Humphrey Waldock, Professor of International Law at Oxford University; and Gustav Nyström, of Stockholm, who will serve as interpreter.

Mr Hammarskjold was instructed by the General Assembly earlier this month to seek the release of the 11 American airmen and other captured personnel of the U.N. Command still detained in Communist China.

Mr Hammarskjold was expected to spend about a week in Peking during which time he will confer with the Chinese Premier, Mr Chou En-lai.

Since Mr Chou accepted Mr Hammarskjold's offer to visit China on December 17, the time has been spent in making arrangements for the trip, preparing a schedule of transportation and agreeing upon the staff to go to Peking.

U. N. sources said Mr Hammarskjold might return to New York—probably in mid-January.

VAST U.S. MILITARY AID PLAN FOR ASIA \$1,120 Million For 6 Countries

Washington, Dec. 28.

The United States plans to make \$1,120,000,000 worth of military aid available to Formosa, Japan, the Philippines, Indo-China, Thailand and Pakistan under an expanded Asian defence programme for 1955.

Official sources said the Administration was putting the finishing touches to the foreign military plans in which heavy emphasis would be placed on bolstering the defences of non-Communist Asian nations.

President Eisenhower and the Defence Secretary, Mr Charles Wilson, had reportedly agreed on a blue-print which would allocate 80 per cent of all foreign military aid to Asia in the coming year.

PRE-OCCUPATION WITH ASIA

The administration was said to be ready to ask Congress to approve a total of \$1,400,000,000 for the entire programme, probably during January.

The significant increase in Asian defence spending was regarded as clear evidence of the United States swiftly growing pre-occupation with guaranteeing stable government in Asia.

To June this year, about 72 per cent of the total of \$9,400,000,000 spent on world-wide mutual security programmes went to Europe with Asia and the Pacific area receiving only 17 per cent. The remaining 11 per cent went to the Middle East and Latin America.

FIXING A LEVEL

Defence officials here said privately today that Asia's 80 per cent share in 1955 appropriations would in all probability alter the foreign military aid spending pattern for several future years, barring war.

The suggested 1955 total of \$1,400 million would be about \$180 million less than President Eisenhower asked Congress for last year.

But the decrease in the requested appropriation did not necessarily mean a slackening in the flow of foreign military aid, a Defence Department official said. There remained substantial carry-over funds from previous appropriations.

Further funds had already been earmarked for sending arms to Korea and Germany.

ROOSEVELT AID

The military aid plan for Asia will be in addition to the big new economic assistance programme under discussion by Mr Harold Stassen, the Foreign

Solution To The Population Problem?

Berkeley, California, Dec. 28.

A solution to the increasing world population might be found in treating it as it were cancer, Dr Alan Gregg, Vice-President of the Rockefeller Foundation, said today.

In a report to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he said that just as malignant cells grew rapidly and sometimes spread all through the body, so the human species had grown and spread through the earth.

He compared the colonisation of underdeveloped parts of the world to the spreading of cancer and the big appetites of cancer cells to the growing demands for humanity for food.—Reuter.

28 KILLED IN BIG P.I. STORM

Manila, Dec. 29.

The most destructive storm to hit Visayas and Mindanao in the central and southern Philippines this year killed 28 people, according to the latest reports from the stricken area last night.

Six people are missing and 70 injured, the reports added.

Thousands of people have been left homeless.

Reports by the Philippines News Service and the Red Cross Chapters told of several towns being isolated by landslides, destroyed roads and homes carried away by the floods.

Rampaging floods in at least seven provinces caused damage to crops, properties and public works estimated at US\$1,500,000.

The weather bureau last night located the storm, which had dissipated into a depression, about 400 miles west of Palawan Province, moving away from the country.—France-Press.

Compensation For Loss Of CPA Airliner

Peking Sends Cheque To U.K.

London, Dec. 28.

The Foreign Office today received from Communist China a cheque for \$267,000 as compensation for the shooting down of a Cathay Pacific Airways airliner off Hainan last June 23.

Ten passengers were killed when the Hongkong airliner was shot down by Chinese fighters. The Peking Government accepted full responsibility.

The compensation received will be distributed among the families of the victims and among the wounded and includes indemnity to the airline for the loss of its plane.—France-Press.

Dutch Mission Get Peking Orders

London, Dec. 28.

Several contracts have been signed between export corporations in China and a group of visiting Dutch businessmen, and "satisfactory results" have followed their talks, the Communist New China News Agency reported today.

The majority of the Dutch group left Peking today after a stay of 18 days. A few members are staying behind for further discussions.

An announcement by the business men and the Chinese National Import and Export Corporation, under whose auspices the negotiations took place, said that both countries have considerable requirements for the products of the other country, the agency reported.

Possibilities for the development of reciprocal trade were discussed and as a result, a solid basis for trade developments between China and the Netherlands, the agency said.—Reuter.



H.E. The Governor presents Lady Lo with the M.B.E. (Civil) at the Government House Presentation of Insignias ceremony this morning.

Hongkong Residents Honoured At Government House Presentation Ceremony

Thirty-six Hongkong residents, members of the Services and officials of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, received the insignia of decorations of awards conferred upon them by H.M. the Queen in the Birthday Honours list for excellent work, devotion to duty and loyalty at an impressive ceremony in the Ball Room at Government House this morning.

The presentations which were made by H.E. the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, GCMG, included the CBE, OBE, MBE, BEM (all Civil), MBE and BEM (Military), and Certificates of Honour for valuable services to the Colony.

Prominent among the local residents decorated were Mr L. E. Trevor, General Manager of the Kowloon-Canton Railway who was awarded the CBE; Mr C. B. Burgess, Deputy Colonial Secretary, and Dr Arthur Woo both of whom were awarded the OBE; the Rev. Bro. L.M.B. Cassian, who received the OBE (Honorary); and Lady Lo, who was awarded the MBE (Civil) for an outstanding record of public service extending over many years.

The citations accompanying the awards were read by the Hon. the Acting Chief Justice, T. J. Gould, who was attired in full bottomed wig and red gown. He was accompanied by Mr L. Aitree (Head Bailiff), who was the Mace Bearer.

Seated in the front rows were Lady Grantham, H.E. the Commander, British Forces, Hongkong, and Mrs C.S. Sugden, the Hon. R.B. Black and Mrs Black, Mrs T.J. Gould, the Hon. Sir M.E. Lo, Commodore A.H. Thorold, Air Commodore and Mrs R.C. Field, the Hon. B.C.K. Hawkins, Mr C.B. Burgess, Col. R.B.L. Dowling, Mr P.H. Jennings, Mr L.B. Trevor, Prof. Gordon King, Dr Arthur Woo and Mr Henry Ching.

The following is the list of citations at today's ceremony of presentation of insignia at Government House:

Mr I. B. Trevor, M.C.—C.B.E. (Civil)

Mr Trevor, first appointed in 1924, has been General Manager of Kowloon-Canton Railway since 1946, and has done excellent work in managing the British section of the Kowloon-Canton Railway which a few years ago was the second busiest of all British Colonial railway systems. He has consistently striven for the welfare of officers in his department.

Mr C. B. Burgess—O.B.E. (Civil)

Mr Burgess in his capacity as Deputy Colonial Secretary and throughout the whole of twenty-two years' service has displayed outstanding efficiency in carrying out his duties.

Dr Arthur Woo—O.B.E. (Civil)

Dr Arthur Woo has been actively associated with many charitable and public services in Hongkong and has always given his wide medical skill and administrative experience to any worthy cause.

Reverend Brother L. M. B. Cassian—O.B.E. (Honorary)

Reverend Brother Cassian has served in Hongkong for 31 years, and has done much to foster good relations with the Colony's administration. He has taken an active part in the Boy Scout movement and has also encouraged schools and teachers to take an interest in the movement. He is a popular member of the community and most highly respected.

Lady Lo—M.B.E. (Civil)

Lady Lo has an outstanding record of public service extending over many years. Having a high sense of duty, Lady Lo has freely given her time, energy and advice in the promotion of numerous charities and good causes.

Mr W. G. Fitz-Gibbon—M.B.E. (Civil)

Mr Fitz-Gibbon, Assistant Registrar, has shown ability of the highest order during his 41 years of service. In recent years, as Chairman of the Special Survey Board, he did excellent work in straightening out stores after the liberation.

(Contd. on back page, Col. 3)

King Peter Ends Divorce Move



Gstaad, Switzerland, Dec. 28.

Former King Peter of Yugoslavia announced today he and his estranged ex-Queen reached a reconciliation during a Christmas holiday in Switzerland.

"Queen Alexandra and I intend to continue to live our lives together," an announcement issued by the ex-King's Press office said.

"We have given our lawyers orders to halt divorce proceedings," the announcement said.

Divorce proceedings were started by the ex-King in Paris in October, 1953. The breakdown of 10 years of marriage was reported to have been caused by "irreconcilable differences."

CHILDREN'S LUCKY ESCAPE FROM DEATH IN AVALANCHE

Stockholm, Dec. 28.

An avalanche swept down upon a group of 10 Danish children and their grown-up leader today in the Snasebergarna Mountains, 60 miles west of Ostersund in Northern Sweden, but all survived.

Only two of the children and the leader were caught by the rushing snowfall. It hurled them 70 feet down into a valley. They were buried in the snow but escaped with fractured legs.

While two children on their side set off to the nearest village to get help, the other youngsters managed to dig out the leader and the two buried children.

A helicopter airlifted the three casualties to Hanelöv where they received medical treatment.—United Press.

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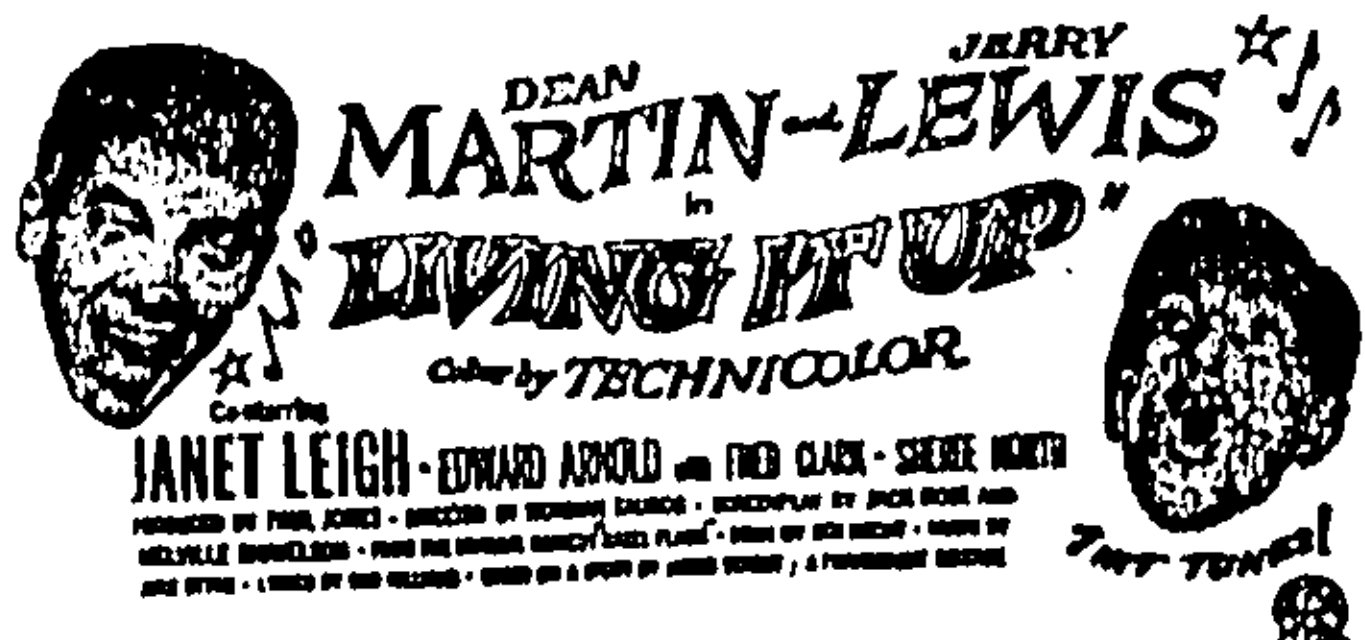
SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST LTD

HONGKONG KOWLOON

KING'S PRINCESS EMPIRE

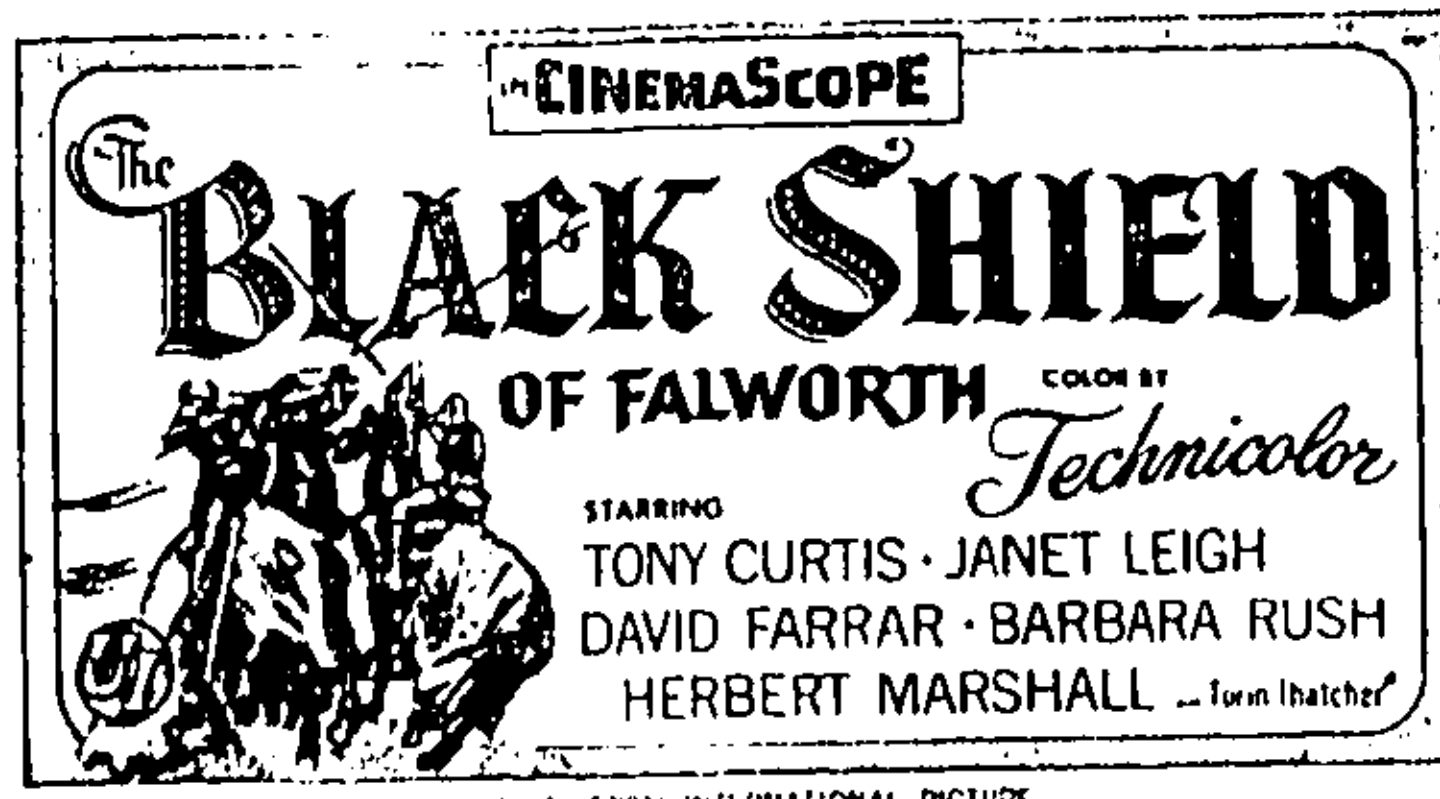
AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M. AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M. AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

4 SHOWS TO-DAY



KING'S PRINCESS

GALA PREMIERE TO-MORROW AT 9.30 P.M.
BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!



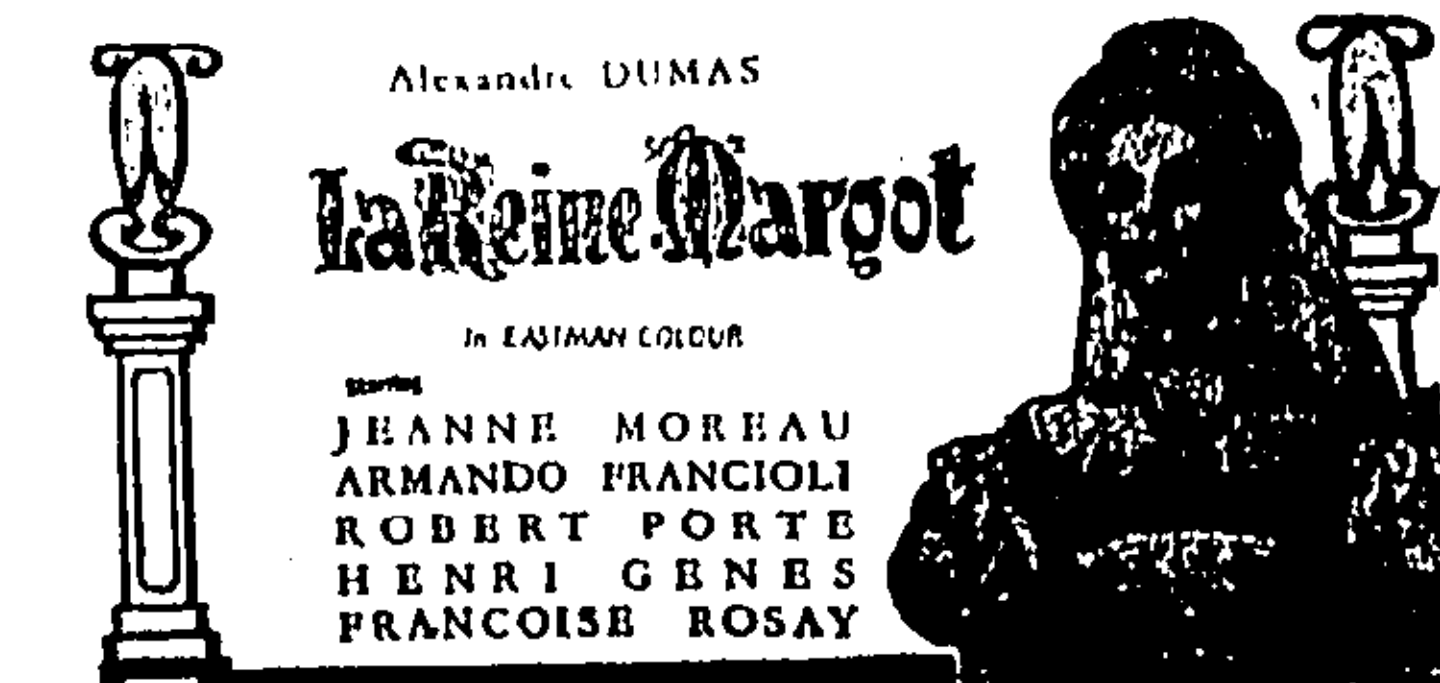
CAPITOL LIBERTY

TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.40 P.M.



LEE GREAT WORLD

DAILY AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.
SHOWING TO-DAY



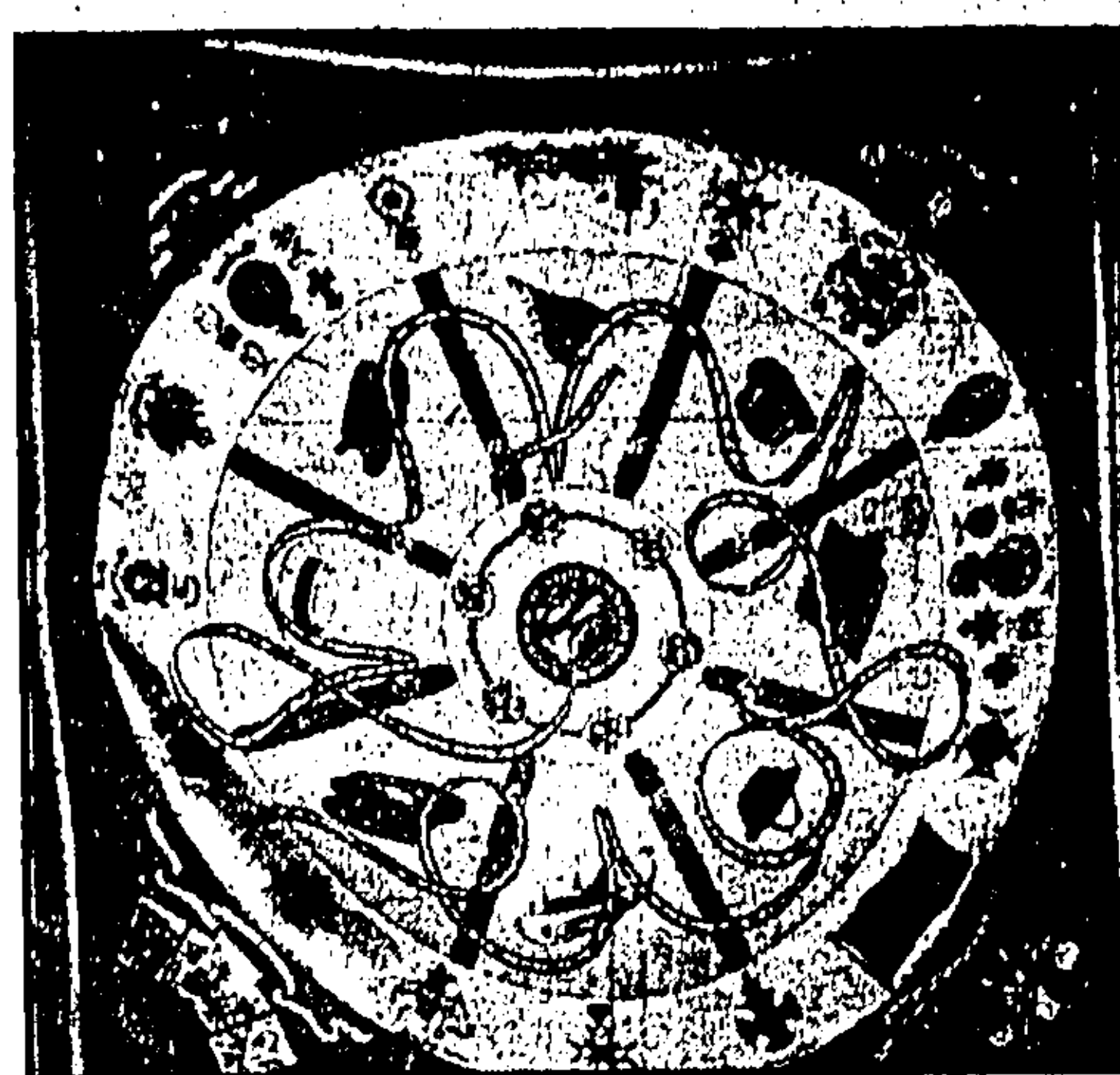
NEXT CHANGE at the LEE THEATRE

TO-DAY ONLY MAJESTIC AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

HELD OVER BY POPULAR REQUEST!



MR RHEE'S WARNING



This striking scarf is the present of the famous Paris designer Jacques Heim to Sir Winston Churchill on the occasion of the British Prime Minister's 80th birthday. The scarf made of silk features a map of England surrounded by monograms of the six monarchs under whom Sir Winston served. Long of cars divide the scarf into equal parts, thus giving it the shape of a ship's helm. In each of the sections, are representative drawings of the Prime Minister's literary work, his favourite hobbies and outstanding episodes of his life.—France-Press Photo.

Colombo Powers To Discuss Invitations

Bogor, Indonesia, Dec. 29.

The Prime Ministers of the five Colombo Powers will conclude a two-day meeting today (Wednesday) with a decision on the crucial question of whether to invite Communist China to next April's conference of African and Asian nations.

The Prime Minister of Indonesia, Mr Ali Sastroamidjojo, the Prime Minister of India, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Mohammed Ali, the Prime Minister of Burma, U Nu, and the Prime Minister of Ceylon, Sir John Kotelawala, were to confer from 9 a.m. until noon in the presidential palace at Bogor. They will conclude the second conference of the Colombo Powers' Prime Ministers with an afternoon session from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

In the first session yesterday afternoon, the Prime Ministers formally authorised Indonesia to convene a conference of African and Asian nations the last week of April in Indonesia.

INVITATIONS

Today they must decide which nations shall receive invitations to the conference which Indonesia views as an effort to bring lasting peace to Asia by reconciling the conflicting viewpoints of East and West.

Those Prime Ministers favouring attendance by Peking were caught in a sort of dilemma, according to neutral observers. However, valuable Communist Chinese participation might be, these observers pointed out, the value would be wiped out by the refusal of

some otherwise willing nations to attend the conference.

Some observers saw the possibility of a compromise with China invited to send only observers to next April's conference. But some Prime Ministers were known to regard this as an unworkable arrangement.

The only other nation under serious consideration for inclusion in the conference and around which an argument might develop was Japan.

Some of the Prime Ministers were reported to think that an invitation to China should result in similar treatment for Japan.

The Prime Ministers were conducting their discussion in great secrecy. Every person in the conference room was sworn to secrecy. Armed soldiers kept newsmen 300 yards from the Palace.—United Press.

Hong Kong Birds

Herklotz, G. A. C. 1953. Hong Kong Birds. Pp. vi+233, 11 pls., 8 in colour, numerous black-and-white drawings in text. Hong Kong: South China Morning Post, Ltd. HK\$35.00.

"... a most welcome handbook for ornithologists resident or stationed in Hong Kong. All the hitherto recorded species are included; plumages are clearly and concisely described, and a short account is given of field characters, voice, habits, status, etc. The illustrations, except for three plates of photographs, are all by Cdr. A. M. Hughes, and include four attractive plates of the heads of 42 species and many useful drawings in the text. The writer of this review would have benefited greatly from this book when stationed in Hong Kong some years ago. Even now, on referring to it, some 40 unfamiliar species on which notes were made at the time have almost all proved easily identifiable.—D. W. S.

(Extract from "The Bird" official organ of the British Ornithologists' Union, British Museum).

S.C.M. POST HONG KONG KOWLOON

Co-existence Policy Would Lead To Infiltration

Seoul, Dec. 28.

President Syngman Rhee today told American troops his nation was grateful for their "valiant help" in fighting Communist aggression but so far their common objective has not been accomplished.

In an end of the year message to the Army, Navy and Air Force, Mr Rhee said that United States-Korean co-operation "will keep the common enemy as far away from your coastline as possible."

BOXER ARRESTED

Philadelphia, Dec. 28. Joey Giardello, middleweight boxing contender under indictment for allegedly beating a petrol station attendant, was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge today.

The latter, arrested alongside from an argument Giardello had with two policemen, who stopped two cars for allegedly going through a stop sign. Giardello's brother Robert, 22, and four friends were in the vehicles. The 24-year-old boxer also was charged with interfering with an officer.

At a hearing, the magistrate, Mr Elias Myers, discharged the six defendants. Giardello was arrested and indicted with three other men on charges of wrecking a South Philadelphia service station last October 28 and beating the attendant after an argument. He was suspended by the Pennsylvania Athletic Commission but the suspension was set aside pending a hearing.—United Press.

Old Master's Work Found In Church

Arezzo, Italy, Dec. 28. Restoration of a mural on the wall of the Church of Santa Chiara a San Sepulcro revealed today an almost intact painting by the Renaissance Master, Piero della Francesca.

The restoration was carried out by Government experts. The painting is estimated to date from about 1460 and shows a figure of a saint dressed in a red robe trimmed with green sleeves and collar. The bottom section of the painting was ruined beyond the possibility of restoration, the experts said.

Elsewhere in the same Church, which was built about 1300, a number of wall paintings were found. They were by artists of the 14th, 15th and 16th Century Tuscan and Umbrian schools.

Meanwhile, in Perugia, in the course of recent restoration on the Church of San Giorgio de Cascia a number of murals of the early 16th Century have been discovered. The paintings are of the Umbrian school.—United Press.

"Due to international politics and the individual views of some world leaders," Mr Rhee said, "we have failed—so far—to accomplish the common objective: the establishment of an independent, united and democratic Korea. With the help of the United Nations forces we have kept the enemy from conquering the rest of Asia and, to that extent, every one of you has succeeded in discharging his sacred duties to your nation and to the cause of common freedom."

"We assure you of our determination to hold our line to the last man," Mr Rhee promised, "and in doing this we will rely on your loyal support and the support of all your friends who fully realise the fact that your security depends on the maintenance of strong front lines in Asia."

"Your fighting here is not only for us and our survival. It is for your own survival, and we also are fighting for you," he said.

"The goal is to make this part of the world safe for democracy because if it does not remain free your homeland will not long remain free."

"Should you accept the idea of co-existence it would be surrender to the enemy."

MUST RESIST

"If America should yield to co-existence the Communists would quickly emerge among the citizenry and suppress those who opposed them with a ruthlessness perfected through the slaughter of millions of non-Communists in Russia and China."

"Unless you successfully resist the Communists they will infiltrate America's political structure with a small but hard core and control national politics. Then it will be too late."—United Press.



ROXY & BROADWAY

★ SHOWING TO-DAY ★

Owing to length of picture please note change of times:
At 2.30, 5.10, 7.30 & 9.40 p.m.



ADDED ATTRACTION! CINEMASCOPE Short Subject "FLYING TO FISH" in-Technicolor.

QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M. AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

SHOWING TO-DAY

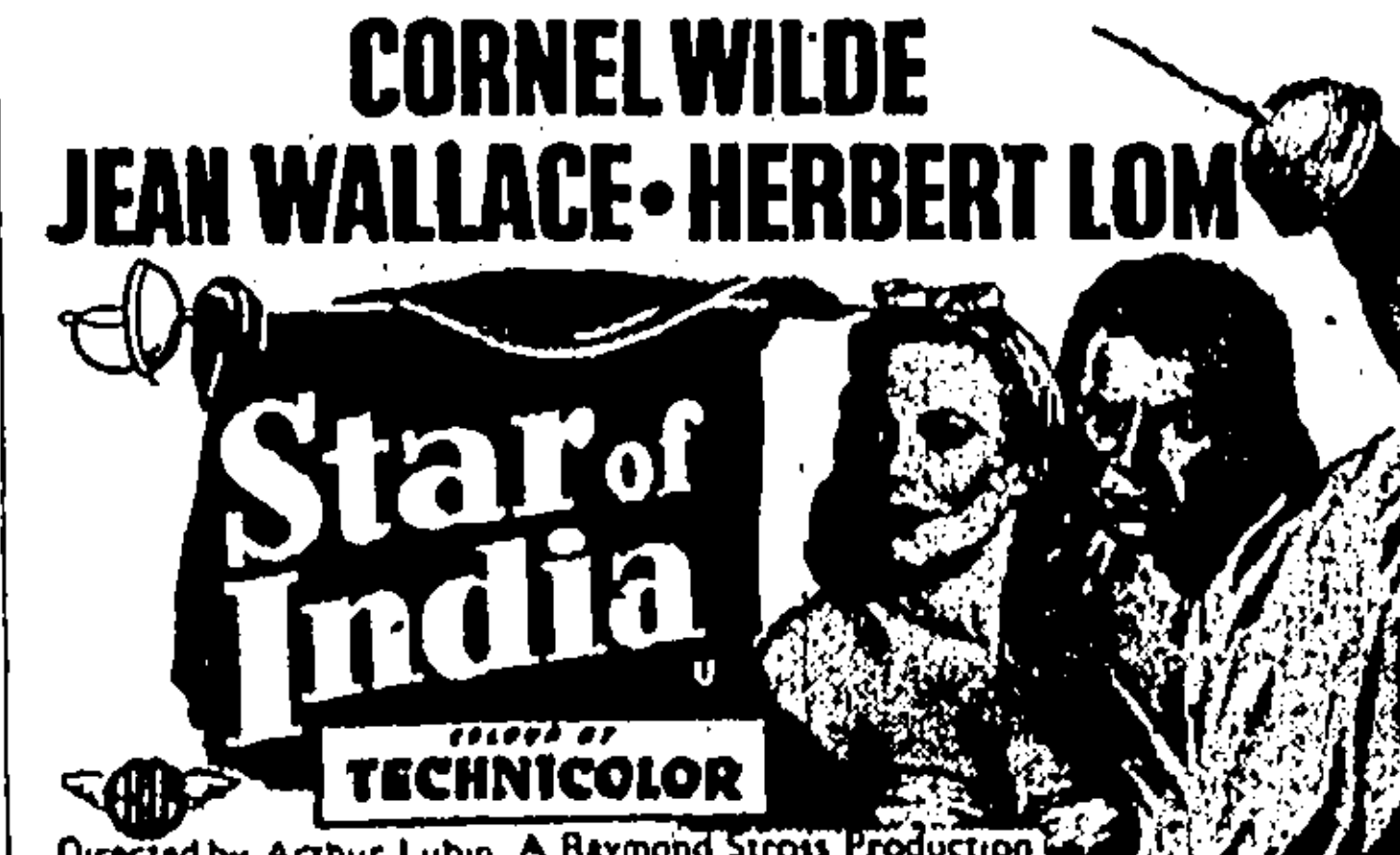


NEXT CHANGE ! Warner Bros. presents in Warnercolor "YOUNG AT HEART" Doris DAY • Frank SINATRA

HOOVER

FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY

AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



STARTING TO-MORROW THURSDAY

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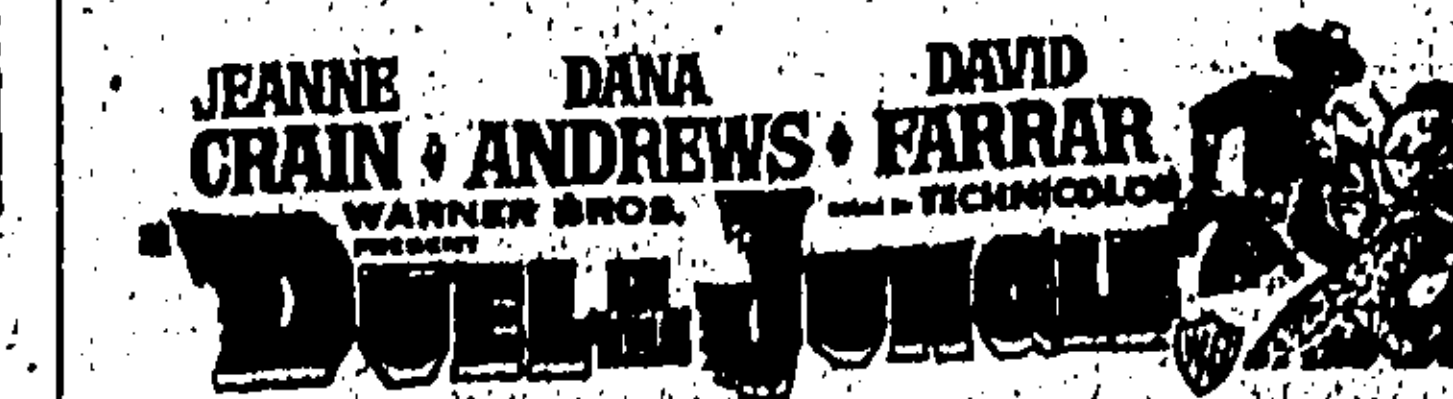
SHOWING TO-DAY

AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



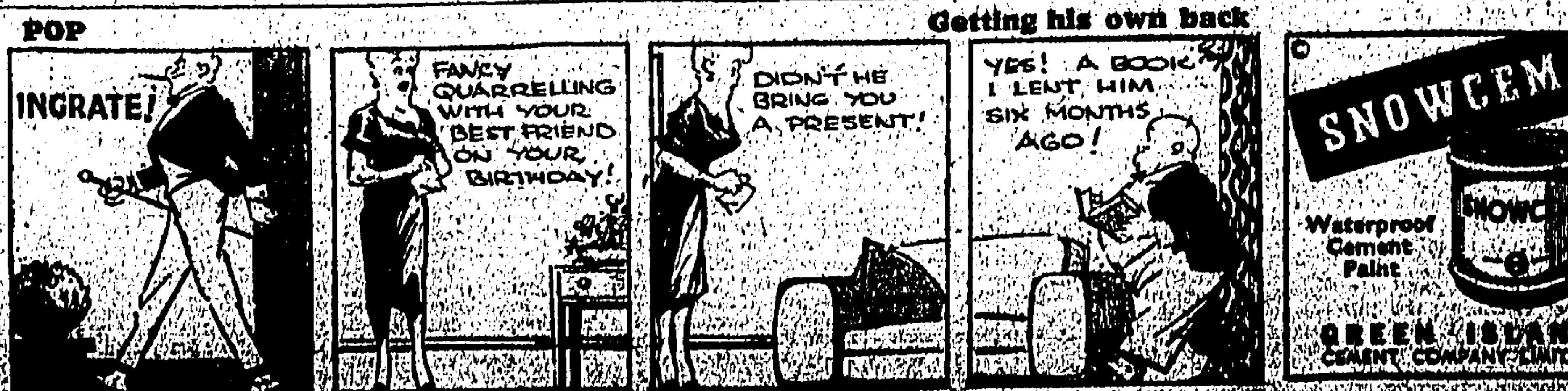
Final Showing To-day AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

ON OUR GIANT WIDE SCREEN



COMMENCING TO-MORROW: "KINGS ROW"

Getting his own back



MR FRANCE CONFIDENT



**BOB HOPE
GOING TO
ARCTIC**

Washington, Dec. 28. The Air Force Secretary, Mr. Harold E. Talbot, accompanied by a group of some 20 veterans, will leave for the Arctic Air base in Thule, Greenland, today.

It will be the second straight year that Mr. Talbot, along with other veterans, have celebrated New Year's Eve at the Arctic Air base which is approximately 800 miles from the North Pole.

Bob Hope and his group will put on two shows at Thule, a matinee for personnel who must stand alert on New Year's Eve and an evening performance for the others.

GOOSE AIR BASE

New Year's Day they will entertain the personnel at Goose Air Base in Labrador.

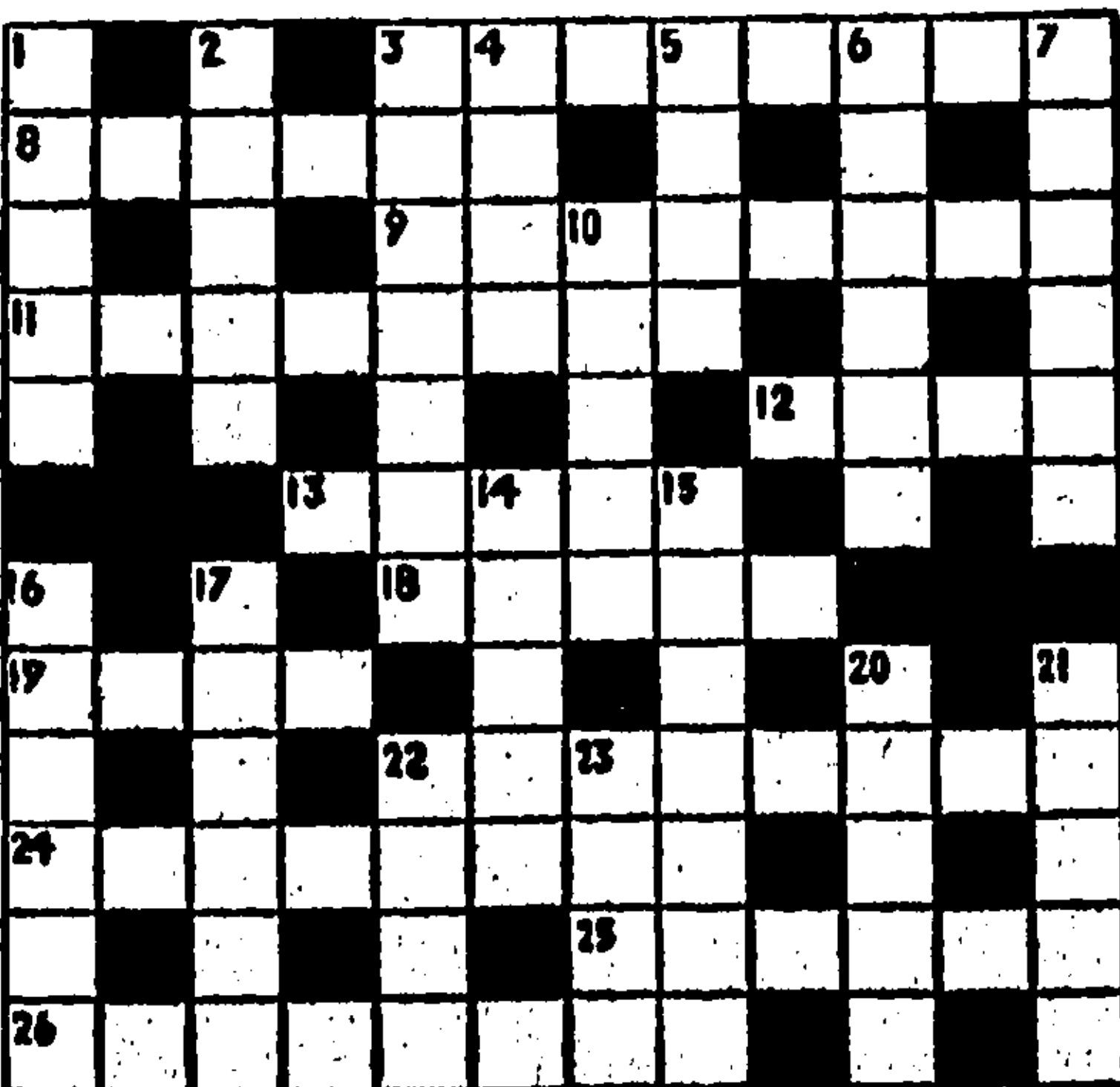
Among the entertainers making the trip are William Holden, Margaret Whiting, Jerry Colonna and Brenda Marshall.

TITO 'SHOTS' TIGER

Gwalior, Dec. 28. Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia shot a tiger today—while on a hunt organized in his honour by the Indian Government.

Marshal Tito, photographed an Indian officer while he was slaying the only tiger of the hunt. A second tiger was wounded and six others sighted during the hunt, which was held in the dense Shivpuri forest.—France-Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3 Deplete (8).
- 8 Magic potion (6).
- 9 Recovering (8).
- 11 Disclosed (6).
- 12 Valley (4).
- 13 Evil spirit (6).
- 16 Tendon (5).
- 18 Sound (4).
- 22 Paintings (8).
- 24 Unconquered (8).
- 25 Spanish coin (6).
- 26 Out into ships (8).

DOWN

- 1 Gay (5).
- 2 Sifting utensil (6).
- 3 Freebooters (7).
- 4 Spoken (4).
- 5 Neralia (6).
- 6 Tolerant (6).
- 7 Dropped (6).
- 10 Fruit (5).
- 14 Musical note (5).
- 15 Annyed (7).
- 16 Negligent (6).
- 17 Disagree (6).
- 20 Angler's basket (5).
- 21 Attempt (6).
- 22 Job (4).
- 23 Promontory (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 3. Suppress, 7. Treat, 8. Advocate, 10. Ornate, 13. Discard, 15. Read, 17. Elderly, 18. Distant, 20. Aisle, 21. Temples, 22. Disperse, 23. Trail, 24. Endorse, Down: 1. Blood, 2. Brawl, 3. State, 4. Prop, 5. Brawl, 6. Brawl, 7. Brawl, 8. Brawl, 9. Brawl, 10. Brawl, 11. Brawl, 12. Brawl, 13. Brawl, 14. Brawl, 15. Brawl, 16. Brawl, 17. Brawl, 18. Brawl, 19. Brawl, 20. Brawl, 21. Brawl, 22. Brawl, 23. Brawl, 24. Brawl, 25. Brawl, 26. Brawl.

Historic Vote Takes Place Today

WEST EUROPEAN UNION

Paris, Dec. 28.

Opponents of the Western European Union raised a new delaying demand tonight for talks first with Russia, but the Premier, M. Pierre Mendes-France, pushed confidently on for France's historic final vote tomorrow on re-arming Germany.

A rightist Peasant Party Deputy, M. Georges Loustaunau-Lacau, put down a fresh amendment calling for talks with Russia that is doomed in advance.

But despite its advocates' optimism, France's final reluctant approval of German rearmament still is not certain.

American and Allied Embassy circles were cautiously optimistic that the Premier can finally push it through in two final confidence votes tomorrow night in the French National Assembly.

PRIVATE OPTIMISM

M. Mendes-France himself is confident, informed sources said.

The French Foreign Office expressed private optimism.

M.P. OUTLINES VIEWS ON SELF-GOVT.

Brussels, Dec. 28. Mr. Hilary Marquand, Labour Member of the British House of Commons, today outlined the British Labour Party's policy towards self-government in British colonies to an international gathering of Socialist students which is exchanging views on conditions in underdeveloped territories. He also outlined the Trade Union Organisation in the colonies.

The three-day meeting, which was opened here today by Belgium's Socialist Prime Minister, Mr. Archibald Van Acker, is to prepare for formal Socialist students' conferences on underdeveloped territories to be held in July and December next year.

Today it exchanged views on trade unionism in underdeveloped areas of the British Empire, the Belgian Congo and the French Union.—Reuter.

But it will not be a fact until the votes are over.

The elected representatives of the French people have proved once again in a week of painful debate that they will only put their stamp of approval on re-arming Germany out of fear that the United States and Britain will isolate France if they did not.

The decision was made harder by the interminable plotting that has kept French politics in confusion for generations.

The Communists would gladly rush to the support of the new amendment calling on M. Mendes-France to approach the Russians once more and report back to Parliament before ratifying.

FIRST TEST

But the Premier's first confidence test tomorrow already is aimed partly at such delaying amendments and there was a strong possibility that it cannot even come to a vote.

The swing of some of the rightists and Catholic Popular Republicans (MRP) who supported the European Army pushed through approval of Germany's entry into NATO last night after the Assembly had thrown the whole Western alliance into confusion early on Friday with an initial rejection of the WEU.

A former MRP Premier and Foreign Minister, M. Robert Schuman, the father of European unity, led 17 of the MRP in voting reluctantly for it to avoid wrecking Atlantic solidarity.

Then in a confused session lasting until 4 a.m., M. Mendes-France manoeuvred through some complicated technical difficulties and called for his last confidence votes. They will take place sometime after 4 p.m. tomorrow.

They were:

1. To reverse the stunning rejection of WEU by voting a whole separate new ratification bill which also will set up a French Parliamentary Commission to keep a running watch on how the Paris pact is applied.

2.—To vote on the entire ratification bill including German entry into NATO, although it already has been approved article by article. It included a clause that Germany must approve the Saar accord along with the other Paris pact before ratification becomes effective.

So the situation, at a glance, was this: German entry into NATO—Approved last night by 259 to 251 votes and up for final approval tomorrow.

SHOW-DOWN VOTE

Western European Union—Defeated early on Friday by 250 to 259 votes and up for the show-down confidence vote tomorrow.

Restoration of Germany's sovereignty—Approved early on Friday by 380 votes to 180. The agreement between France and Germany on the Saar—Approved early on Friday by 368 to 145 votes.—United Press.

ROYAL BIRTH IN JAPAN

Tokyo, Dec. 28. Princess Yuhiko, wife of Prince Mikasa, Emperor Hirohito's youngest brother, gave birth to a third son at the Prince's residence in Tokyo early this morning (Wednesday). The Princess now has two daughters and three sons.—China Mail Special.



When the steel colossus of one of the dry docks at Chatham Dockyard, England, collapsed and was thrown into the dock, the dry dock was immediately flooded. The submarine Talent, undergoing repairs in the dock at the time, was swept into the river Medway and went aground on a mudbank. Four workmen lost their lives and several were injured. This picture shows the wrecked dock.—Express Photo.

CHILDREN'S FRIEND KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

Linz, Dec. 28.

An American pilot known as "Uncle Sam" to thousands of children for his mercy missions throughout Austria was killed today when his plane crashed on a routine test flight.

The same little plane that brought acclaim to Captain John Heyes, 36, of Dedham, Massachusetts, carried him to death in the hills 10 miles from Linz. An enlisted man died with Captain Heyes, but his name was withheld pending notification of his next of kin. Captain Heyes was a U.S. Army aviator who became the personification of the United States.

AUSTRIANS FREED BY RUSSIANS

Vienna, Dec. 28.

Austrians just back from years in Soviet slave camps said today that three long-gone Americans had been promised their freedom "very soon."

They also said the Soviet gaoles had suddenly started giving many captives a "velvet glove" treatment—including sightseeing tours of Moscow just before the trip home.

The reports came from Austrians among 85 ex-prisoners who arrived today aboard a freedom train from the Iron Curtain. They brought news of three captive Americans whom they identified as Johnny Holmuth Noble, William A. Verdine and William T. Marchuk. All were described as about 28 years of age.

The Austrians said the three Americans were held at Soviet "Camp 43" near Polna, about 250 miles southeast of Moscow, and had been promised they would be freed "very soon."—United Press.

3RD DIVISION BACK HOME

Liverpool, Dec. 28. The 3rd British Infantry Division, sent to Egypt during the trouble there three years ago, are arriving at Liverpool tonight in the troopship Lancashire at the end of their term of overseas service.—China Mail Special.

Not THE Churchill

Rockhampton, Victoria, Dec. 28. A Rockhampton hall clerk looked twice when he received a letter from a Winston Churchill asking payment for two fox scalps. But it was not Sir Winston, the British Prime Minister, just Winston A. Churchill, of Rockhampton, who had been taking part in a pest hunt.—China Mail Special.

Forecast Own Death

Lisbon, Dec. 28.

A 65-year-old man, apparently in perfect health, forecast his own death the day before it happened, according to the Lisbon newspaper "Diario de Noticias."

Manuel Rodrigues, who lived in Sepores, a village in the north of Portugal, suddenly had the feeling that he was going to die.

He went to confession and received the last sacraments. Then he visited his friends to say goodbye.

After that he went home to bed, where he died at 3 a.m. the next day, the newspaper reported.—China Mail Special.

SURVEY OF E. GERMAN JUSTICE

Berlin, Dec. 28.

East German courts have sentenced four persons to death, 15 to life imprisonment and imposed a total of 2,719 years' imprisonment, the West Berlin Information Bureau said today.

The anti-Communist fact-finding Bureau said in a private survey of East German justice that Communist courts held 230 trials in which defendants were accused of political crimes.

The Bureau said its survey only included trials it was able to trace through a systematic check of East German newspaper reports. It said the real figure of East German trials, many of which have been held secretly, was believed to be higher.

SABOTAGE

Among the victims of East German courts were former Foreign Minister Herr Georg Doring, sentenced to 15 years for espionage, and a former Supply Minister, Herr Karl Hamann, sentenced to 10 years for sabotage.

Two East German Under-Secretaries of State were sent to prison for a total of 12 years on similar charges.

The Bureau said that Herr Max Fechner, East German Minister of Justice, who was fired from his post last year for appearing and Communist rebels, is awaiting trial.—United Press.

Fails To Pass Resolution

Tel-Aviv, Dec. 28.

The Syrian-Israeli Mixed Armistice Commission today failed to pass a Syrian draft resolution condemning Israel for intercepting a Syrian passenger airliner on December 12 and forcing it to land at Lydda airport, an Israeli spokesman announced tonight.

The spokesman said that the United Nations Commission for Concessions, Lieutenant-Colonel G. Castonguay, abstained from voting, and thus the Syrian motion failed to be adopted.

The Chairman explained his abstention saying that the Armistice Commission was not competent to deal with the case. The Israeli authorities have said that the aircraft violated Israeli air-space and entered Israel's control zone without permission.—Reuter.

ISLAND EARTHQUAKES

State Of Emergency Declared In Stricken Area

Messina, Dec. 28.

A state of emergency reigned on the tiny island of Salina, off the north coast of Sicily, today in the wake of yesterday's eleven-hour series of earthquake shocks.

Panicky peasants and fishermen refused to go back to their homes although the last earth tremor hit the 10-square-mile island at 1530 (1430 GMT) yesterday. The 1,700 islanders camped in the open under tents hastily rigged by Red Cross officials.

Men, women and children lined up at field kitchens for their meals. They lived in constant fear of a new series of shocks and their fears were kindled by memories of an earthquake disaster which killed 75,000 on December 28, 1908.

In Messina today citizens commemorated the 46th anniversary of the disaster with a pilgrimage to the cemetery and with special Masses.

Red Cross officials who returned to Palermo from the island said there was hardly a house that had not been damaged in some way by the quakes.

After minor warning tremors during recent days the quake struck in earnest at 0430 yesterday. Thirty successive shocks set the island trembling and tumbled houses for 11 hours. But no deaths were reported among the earthquake-wary inhabitants of the volcanic island. About 20 were reported slightly injured by falling masonry.

Technical experts from the Messina Geophysics Institute said the centre of the earthquake was in the Mediterranean between the islands of Salina and Stromboli.

They said it probably was linked with the December 6 eruption of the Stromboli volcano.

BORE BRUNT

Other islands in the Lipari group also felt the shock, but Salina was hardest hit. The little port of Malfa on Salina's North shore bore the brunt of the damage.

The church of Santa Maria di Salina in the small town of Lingu caved in tonight as the faithful were attending a special service. The congregation ran outside as soon as the Church started rocking.—United Press.

BLAZING SHIP MOVED

Singapore, Dec. 28.

The 5,720-ton Danish freighter Lexa Maersk which has been blazing for 72 hours since Christmas Day, was towed two miles from her original position and beached on the eastern coast of Singapore shortly after noon today.

This step followed consultations between the Port authorities and the agent's representatives and officials of the Harbour Trust. It was agreed that it would be dangerous to ship the Lexa Maersk to a position which is just outside the explosive anchorage.

SMOKE PALL

Thick, black smoke billowing from the blazing ship rose more than 500 feet high and could be seen for miles around. Singapore Police boats took positions round the ship to keep away unauthorized persons.

Meanwhile, the six American and two Australian passengers are being accommodated in a first class hotel pending the arrival of the agent's officials from Copenhagen who are due here tomorrow and the setting up of a court of inquiry.

All the passengers lost practically their entire personal belongings. The two Australian passengers, Mr and Mrs G. E. Standish, who are stationed in Singapore with a commercial firm, were able to start a new wardrobe, but the four American girls have nothing except the dresses they have on.—United Press.

Franco To Meet Pretender

Madrid, Dec. 28.

The Spanish chief of State, General Francisco Franco, is to meet the Spanish Pretender, Don Juan de Bourbon, who lives in Portugal, tomorrow in the Spanish province of Caeres to discuss the programme of higher education which Don Juan's eldest son, Prince Juan Carlos, should follow.

The meeting is the first between the two in many years. As a result of preliminary talks between their representatives, General Franco and Don Juan are expected to reach agreement on the matter.

General Franco thinks that the young prince should be educated in a number of military schools in Spain and that his tutor should meet with both the approval of his family and that of the State. Don Juan, who lives in Exeter, Portugal, would like to see his son get his higher education in a Belgian university.

The latest information indicates that Don Juan will accept General Franco's view. It seems unlikely that in their meeting they will discuss the delicate question of the Spanish succession as there are a number of difficulties still to be solved by the government.—France Press.

W. German Rivers Subside

Hanover, Dec. 28.

West Germany's swollen rivers rolled back toward normal levels tonight after two days of high water that covered farmlands, blocked roads, and left at least two persons dead.

Wide areas along the Weser, Elbe, Lahn, Main, and Neckar Rivers were spared further flood dangers when steady rains in upland shapes, temperatures dropped, snow from melting in the mountains.

Two German women were killed near Stuttgart last night when their small passenger plane plunged into the swollen Neckar River, a tributary of the Rhine. Further casualty reports may have been delayed because storm neighborhoods are still cut off by downed telephone lines.—United Press.

U.S. MAY BUY 'FINS' TO KEEP HER SHIPS STEADY

London, Dec. 28.

Ship "fins" are likely to become a big item in Britain's dollar export trade—because an American executive was so impressed aboard one of Britain's latest luxury liners fitted with anti-rolling devices.

The executive, Mr R. C. Lee, vice-president of a big liner fleet, went on a 12-day cruise from London to Casablanca in the 28,000-ton Arcadia.

Now, two 28,000-ton liners which his shipping line are to build will be fitted with anti-rolling "fins"—the first American vessels to carry the equipment.

The installation will be carried out if it can be done at reasonable cost. Cost, however, is not the only factor. The "fins" are being submitted and tested, of this must use American equipment.

But there is a clause in the subsidy regulations which allows ships to use imported equipment which cannot be obtained in the United States. This clause is likely to come into operation for the "fins" which are being developed by the American Navy and the American Shipbuilding Company.

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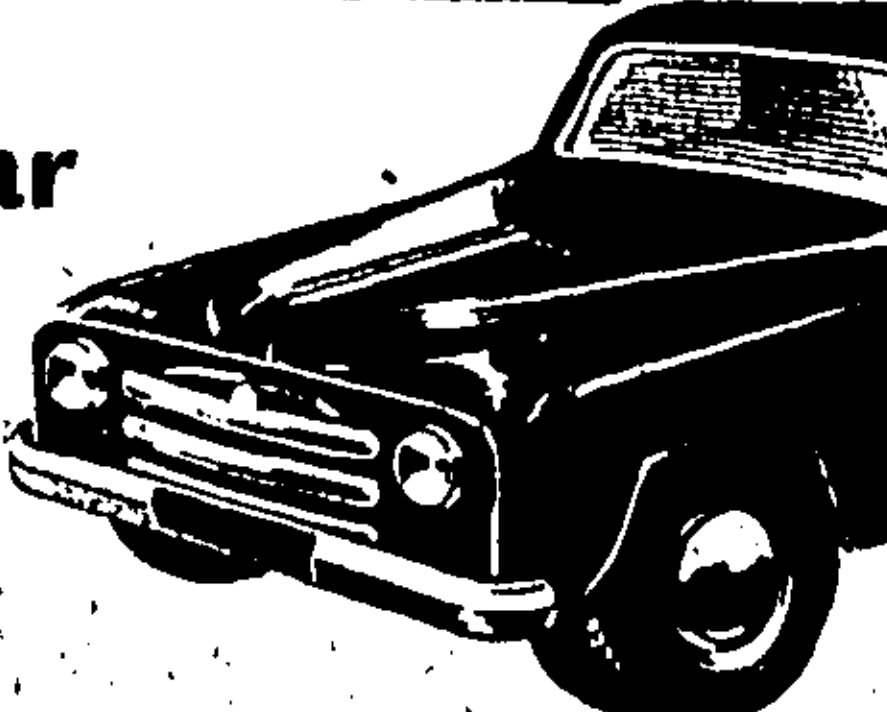
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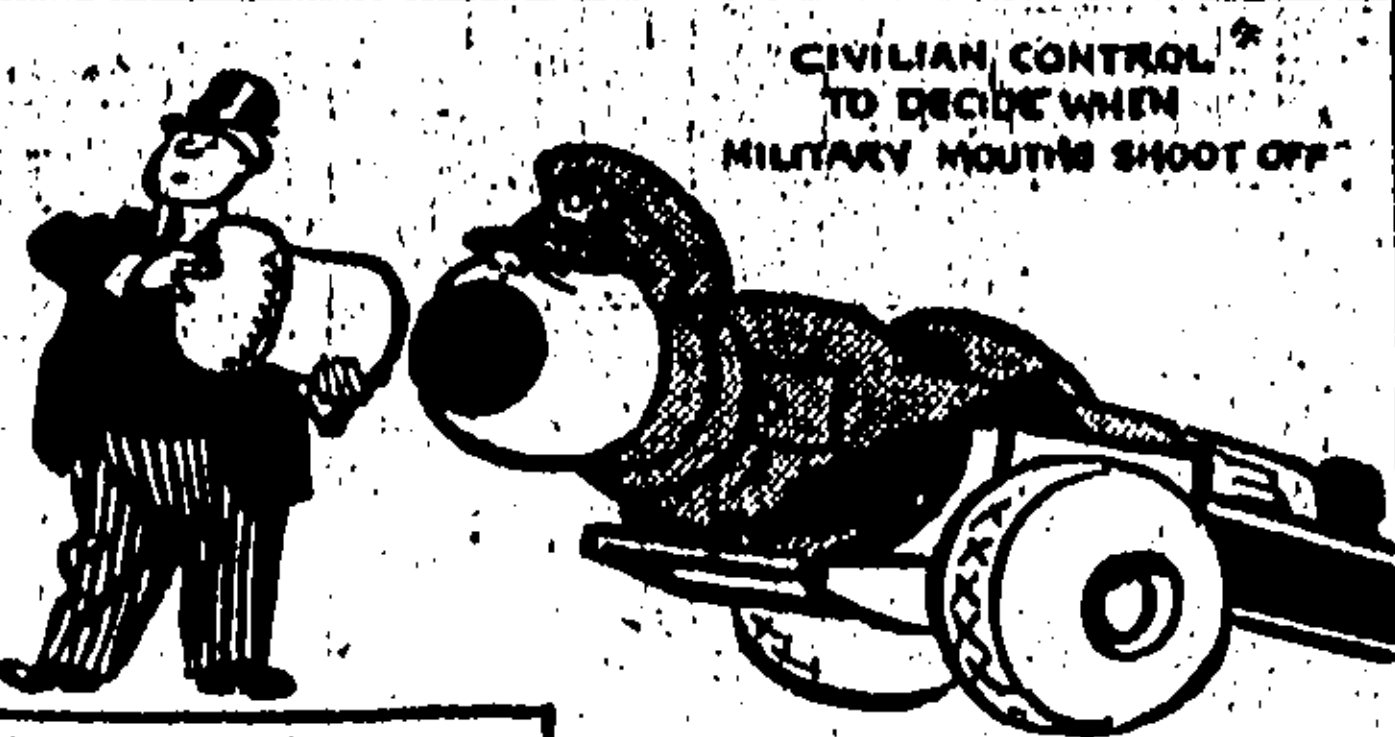
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MERRY CHRISTMAS IN CHINA



PEKING TELEGRAM: Foreign spy named Hammarhjeld, disguised and carrying chest in bag, dropped by parachute. Arrested. Will get ten years.



LOW'S CHRISTMAS CARDS

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THE HARRY OF BOND STREET

KENDALL McDONALD
tells another of the World's Strangest Stories

"TELL your fortune, sir. Only a penny." The fawning voice checked the man's glass half-way to his lips.

Had there been anything vaguely pleasant about the fortune-teller the man would doubtless have paid just for the amusement of hearing a cunning string of lies. But the woman was repellent.

Her sallow face held two shifty eyes, above a strongly hooked nose and a thick-lipped mouth. So unpleasant was she that the man turned quickly away and joined in the conversation of his neighbour in the public bar.

The year was 1893. Some ten years later the fortune-teller—Sarah Rachel Leverson—was to figure in a trial that brought London society flocking to the Old Bailey, but not before she had amassed, at the rate of some £20,000 a year, a huge fortune from duping and blackmailing wealthy London society women—merely by exploiting their vanity.

The step between selling penny fortunes and becoming the most talked of woman in London would probably never have happened but for a kindly doctor in King's Cross Hospital. For Rachel Leverson caught a fever. Part of the treatment was to shave off the one beautiful thing she possessed—her flowing dark hair.

THE medical man, to pacify her, told her that he would give her something that would make her hair grow rapidly and be more beautiful than ever. And Nature was so bountiful that her hair grew most wonderfully fast, at which she was so delighted that she asked the doctor for the recipe.

This, according to a contemporary report, was the inspiration. It is probable that Rachel Leverson decided there and then in her hospital bed, to exploit the vanity of women to all her purse. When she was discharged she found, even in the slums, vanity enough to pay for the "miracle bottles" she was soon hawking round.

It was some years before she could save enough to move to the West End and richer pastures. Madame Rachel, as she then called herself, did things thoroughly.

Early morning shoppers in Bond Street could hardly miss the new shop. Huge letters across the front carried the

slogan "Beautiful for Ever," and beneath these words were shown a glittering collection of cosmetics with fancy Oriental names, priced as high as two hundred guineas for a small bottle.

The fantastic prices, instead of frightening women away, only made the little bottles that would make them "beautiful for ever" more desirable. It never seemed to have crossed the minds of her foolish clients that if Madame Rachel could make them beautiful, her potions and creams might have had some effect on her own features. The rich clothes she now wore did little to mitigate her own ugliness.

Her fawning tongue and flattery, however, kept many in the shop who would otherwise have left at the first sight of the woman who ran it. Some of these who stayed soon found there was another not so pleasant side to Madame's tongue.

Illness robbed her of her only good feature—her hair—but that gave her the "inspiration" which changed her from a penny-a-time fortune-teller to a £20,000-a-year crook

Few women talked of their visits to Madame's establishment. There were rumours of lost jewels and of Madame Rachel's simple answer—"If you say anything, I shall tell your husband you came here to meet a lover."

With blackmail in the back and beauty in the front, Madame Rachel's parlour prospered. She took a luxurious house in the West End, and employed a large staff of servants to look after her. Each day she was driven in her own coach in Hyde Park by liveried servants.

It was about this time that she started the affair which was to bring her downfall. A new customer arrived one morning.

MRS Mary Borradaile was in her fifties, the widow of a colonel, killed in the Indian Mutiny, who had left her a nice little fortune. Madame Rachel was delighted. She even reduced her price for "the full treatment" from £1,000 to £100. Mrs Borradaile was to be beautiful for ever.

After a course of baths and lotions—Madame had thoughtfully told her not to expect any immediate change in her homely features—a new routine was worked out, specially for the foolish widow.

She was told that shortly after her last visit a nobleman of very high birth had become enamoured of her. He had caught a glimpse of her through a crack in the wall of the room in which she took her bath. Such was the persuasive power of Madame Rachel's tongue and so great was the vanity of Mrs Borradaile that she never doubted that a nobleman of such decency and high breeding could descend to peeping through cracks in bathroom walls.

Madame Rachel then said that the nobleman desired to marry her and so a witness added that the man was Lord Borradaile.

KENDALL McDONALD
tells another of the World's Strangest Stories



her big mistake. She applied for a warrant for the arrest of Mrs Borradaile and had her put into Whitecross Street Prison for debt.

Mrs Borradaile's friends rallied to her support. In next to no time Rachel Leverson, who insisted on giving her age as 43 although she must have been older, found herself gaoled for false pretences.

Lord Ranelagh was called to give evidence. He declared Madame Rachel's story as "too ridiculous for words" and "monstrously false from beginning to end."

Counsel for the prosecution quickly destroyed a thin defence and asked laughter roused some of the potions also used in her beauty salon and their prices: "The Royal Arabian Toilet of Beauty," as arranged by Madame Rachel for the Sultan of Turkey, the facsimile of which is used by the Royal European Brides. Prices from 100 guineas to 1,000. Jordan Water ("brought by swift dromedaries from the River Jordan"). Price: 20 guineas. "Dew of Salsara for Removing Wrinkles."

Madame Rachel explained that he wanted the whole thing kept secret until he married Mrs Borradaile. He had told Madame Rachel that he would marry her using the name of "William" as a cover for his real identity.

The letters duly started to arrive. This fact, that, although full of love for "My Own Beloved Mary," the letters were hardly those of an educated man was explained away by the story that he had hurt his hand and was getting, his valet to write them for him.

MRS Borradaile next period with £400—to buy lace for her trousseau; a small fortune for further baths and treatments and £1,400 for jewellery which Madame Rachel put in "safe keeping" for her (although it was rumoured that Madame sold it back to the jeweller a few days later).

The final clean-up of Mrs Borradaile deprived her of silver plate, rings, family seal, letters from her late husband, and her marriage settlement.

Then all the widow's money was gone and Madame Rachel, the crook, was left with nothing.

NATHANIEL GUBBINS

BEFORE me on the desk was an interview in a newspaper with Miss Nora Herdman, who writes Christmas card rhymes for a living and is known as The Jingle Queen.

As Albert, The Robot Columnist, can produce verse almost without effort I asked him if he would care to have a shot at it.

"There's money in it, Albert," I said.

"I don't know. But this is the sort of stuff Miss Herdman is working on at the moment."

"Sweet are the thoughts it brings Of those who are dear, both far and near, And old familiar things. Over to you, Albert."

"Right. How's this? 'Sweet is the message of Christmas. Sweet are the thoughts, not new, Of what are you likely to give to me So what must I give to you?'"

"No Christmas-card manufacturer would pay for that, Albert. It's too near the truth. Here is another example of Miss Herdman's work with her own exclamations marks.

"Christmas! Let's be gay! And how I hope it brings The best of luck your way And many pleasant things. Over to you."

"Right. Christmas! Let's be gay! And may you listen in To the broadcast they're doing on Christmas Day Of the bombs dropped on Japan."

"No good at all, Albert. Let's avoid parodies of Miss Herdman's work. What is your favourite Christmas-card rhyme?"

"One I read last year. It was 'Keep your robins' keep your snow, Give me Marilyn Monroe.' That was written by an irreverent university undergraduate. Try something thoughtful and sincere."

"O.K. This comes from the heart: 'Nuts to turkey, nuts to pud, Nuts to doing people good. Why not spend your Christmas Day With a blonde fur, far away?'"

"Careful, Albert. 'With a blonde so far away, Hip hip-hip, hip-hip hooray! Away from playing silly games Round the fire with ancient dames. Instead of playing games that tire, Go abroad and play with fire.'"

"That will do, Albert." "Go abroad to gay Paree." "I said that will do." "He-he, he-he, he-he, he-he."

At heart the highly strung uncle is a decent sort of chap, even fond of children up till now. He thinks, well Christmas is Christmas. Perhaps they'll soon tire of their toys and he will have a chance to recover his nerve. But he doesn't know what's coming to him.

As he enters the dining-room for breakfast a dear little boy, taking cover behind the settee, opens fire with the water gun. With telescopic sights the dear little chap can't miss. He hits the highly strung uncle first in one eye and then the other. As the uncle turns his head he gets it in the right ear. He turns again and gets it in the left ear. "Let him have the lot," the dear little children yell, sounding trumpet and siren for the kill.

Before the highly strung uncle can escape "the king, dandy stream" hits him full in the face and he has to go upstairs to change his shirt.

Did the uncle have a lovely, happy Christmas?

[World Copyright]

GOT your turkey yet, old man? Well, not yet, old man. After all, it's still three weeks to Christmas.

There's no harm in ordering it, old man. I suppose you're still doing the wife's shopping?

Like you, I've been doing to ever since I retired. But I don't think there'll be a shortage of anything this year. For the first time since 1899 the customer will be always right.

Still, I know one customer who's not taking any chances.

You don't mean to say he's got his turkey already?

You'll hardly believe it but he went up to Norfolk two months ago to choose a chick.

Never, old man? He had a label with his name on it tied to its leg and he told them to feed it on cream.

Cream, old man? It makes them very fat—and tender, old man. Better than milk. But what do you think happened?

No idea, old man. It died of fowl pest. That's the only laugh I've had since the Test Match.

Same here. But you know what's going to happen now? He'll grab the best turkey in the town.

Others can play at that game, old man.

But others won't devote so much time and energy to it. He's spent a whole week, baring Sundays, prodding poultry and pinching turkey breasts.

I think it's disgusting, old man. If he can't reach them with his fingers he pokes them with his umbrella.

I've told you the customer's always right this Christmas. But they're getting pretty fed up with him at the grocers.

There's nothing to prod and pinch there, old man.

Oh, yes there is. He prods the dates and figs and pinches the biscuits.

Do you mean he steals them, old man?

He says he wants to try them. But you'd think he'd know what they were like after eating one instead of a handful. Then he tries the cheese and a bit of sausage and a slice of cooked ham.

Practically a full meal, old man.

Precisely, old man. They had to ask him to leave when they found him with his fingers in a jar of preserved ginger.

It's not hygienic, old man.

Of course it's not. No wonder there's so much gastric flu about.

Somebody ought to write to the public health department, old man.

If he can't keep his fingers to himself somebody will send for the police. Having a quick one before you cook the wife's lunch, old man?

No, thanks. I still have to do me grates. So long, old man. So long, old man.

Christmas Day

YOU must now imagine the home of a kiddie-worshipper on Christmas Day. He has five children, and their loving father has armed them with the toys mentioned. One guest is a highly strung uncle who has been on a bit of a bender the night before.

The highly strung uncle, an ex-Army man, is trying to sleep late when he thinks he hears reveille. Half awake, he also thinks the bugle is being played against his ear. It is right, except that it is not a bugle but the glistering gold trumpet being played on all four notes with valve action by one of the dear little boys.

Leaping out of bed, the uncle's bare feet are struck a painful blow by the toy lawn mower driven straight at him by another dear little boy; and he is played to the bathroom by a dear little girl strutting hideous sounds on the Ukulele.

Severely shaken, the uncle carves his face badly while shaving and nearly has his ear off when there is a wall of agony downstairs. At first he thinks a dear little kiddie is being strangled and is alarmed of a momentary feeling of relief. But it is only another dear little girl playing with her toy car, speed cop, and shrieking siren.

At heart the highly strung uncle is a decent sort of chap, even fond of children up till now. He thinks, well Christmas is Christmas. Perhaps they'll soon tire of their toys and he will have a chance to recover his nerve. But he doesn't know what's coming to him.

As he enters the dining-room for breakfast a dear little boy, taking cover behind the settee, opens fire with the water gun. With telescopic sights the dear little chap can't miss. He hits the highly strung uncle first in one eye and then the other. As the uncle turns his head he gets it in the right ear. He turns again and gets it in the left ear. "Let him have the lot," the dear little children yell, sounding trumpet and siren for the kill.

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But what do you think happened?

JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Accept Errors As Part of Game

By OSWALD JACOBY

NOBODY plays errorless bridge. You must expect to make an occasional error of your own, although it is to be hoped that you will make very few, and you must expect your opponents to stumble now and then also. When they do, be ready to take advantage of their lapses.

In today's hand, for example, West opened the king of hearts, and declarer made the sad mistake of winning immediately with dummy's ace. If you had made the same mistake, don't tell anybody. We'll see later on what is wrong with that play.

After making his mistake, South led a diamond to the ace and returned a heart towards the dummy. West naturally hopped up with the queen of hearts and returned.

Well, what would you return if you were West, to take full advantage of declarer's mistake?

When Chagett Bowie, the well-known expert of Towson, Md., had the West cards he saw that South was trying to cash back to dummy in order to cash the top diamonds. There was only one way to keep South out of the dummy. Bowie returned the king of spades!

This sacrificed a trump trick, to be sure, but the sacrifice paid off. South could win six trump tricks and his three side aces.

NORTH (D)			
♠ J	♥ A J	♦ K Q J	♣ 10 8 7 6 5 2
WEST			
♥ K 6 4	♠ 5 3 2	♦ 8 5 4	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 2
♠ K 10 9	♥ 8 4 3	♦ 10 9 8 5 2	♣ 10 9 8 5 2
♠ 8 4 3	♥ K J 9	♦ 10 9 8 5 2	♣ 10 9 8 5 2
SOUTH			
♠ A Q 10 9 8 7	♥ 7 6 5 2	♦ A	♣ A 3
North-South vul.			
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Opening lead—♥ K			

but these came to a total of only nine tricks. The defenders scored 10 points, thanks to Bowie's fine defensive play.

Now let's go back to South's play. As you see, good defense beats him if he wins the first trick in dummy with the ace of hearts. No defense can touch him if he refuses the first trick. And this is, of course, the very best reason for refusing it.

If the defenders continue with another heart, South wins in dummy, gets to his hand with the ace of diamonds and ruffs a heart in dummy. He is now in position to cash two high diamonds in order to discard his last heart and a club. He must lose a trump trick, but he makes the rest, scoring game, rubber, and an overtrick.

If the defenders lead anything but a heart at the second trick, the ace of hearts remains in the dummy as an entry to the diamonds. For example, suppose West shifts to a club, which happens to be his best defense. South wins with the ace, clears the ace of diamonds out of the way, leads a heart to the ace, and cashes two high diamonds to discard a club and a heart. Now he cannot lose his contract, and if he makes the right decision he can make an overtrick.

♥ CARD Sense ♦

Q—With neither side vulnerable, the bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 Spade	2 Clubs	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass		

You, South, hold: Spades 8-2, Hearts 9-7-3, Diamonds K-9-7-2, Clubs Q-10-5-3. What do you do?

A—Pass. You will probably take two clubs and a diamond trick on defense, and your partner's strong bidding indicates that he can take at least three tricks himself. Hence you will probably beat two clubs, and you may even make that contract. Even if East makes two clubs he will not score a game for it, so little harm will be done.

TODAY'S QUESTION

The bidding is the same as in the question just answered. You, South, hold: Spades 8-2, Hearts 9-7-3, Diamonds K-9-7-2, Clubs Q-10-5-3. What do you do?

Answer Tomorrow



"But if it's as serious as all that, shouldn't I get a better doctor?"

YOUR BIRTHDAY ... By STELLA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

BORN today, you are a varied and seldom think as do others in the world about you. Your talents are many, your courage great, and your ability to promote a new idea is outstanding. You have a vigorous, rugged, and magnetic personality which makes you either greatly loved or hated—wherever you go, it is widely that people are neutral about you.

You have a native honesty and sincerity that is refreshing. Yet, you do have personal biases which make it difficult for you always to be as just as you should be. You are violently loyal in friendship and once a friend—always a friend. No matter what that person may do, you will fight his cause to the bitter end, even though deep in your heart, you may actually know he is wrong.

On the other hand, you are blunt and outspoken. If you dislike something or someone you never hesitate to talk about it and, when really

pushed, you will do something about it, too. You are a natural-born fighter and you spare no efforts to win—and no holds are barred! Your emotions are near the surface and your temper is what is known as "high." However, you learn early to control it, except when especially provoked. Then, those facing the blast may well be warned: Your love of home and family is deep and your loyalties are firm.

Among those who were born on this date are Andrew Johnson, U.S. President; William F. Gladstone, British statesman; Carmen Sylva, Spanish poet; Charles Goodyear, inventor; Asa Packer, philanthropist; and William T. Sedgewick, biologist.

To find what the stars have in store for you tomorrow, select your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)—Cultural and intellectual matters are highly favored. Make progress in some important project.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—If involved in literary job, get important writing done. Otherwise, just a good day for letter-writing.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—Your brain should be in top-top working condition today. Do something that calls for concentrated brainwork.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—A normally good day for most things, but especially fine for studying, research or making a report.

BY THE WAY

By Beachcomber

It has been pointed out repeatedly that no-way streets, intended to relieve congestion in one, two, or three-way streets, can only increase the present confusion.

The no-way street itself would, of course, be free from traffic-jams, as there would be no traffic, but how, on earth, can this relieve the other streets? In fact, the no-way street is mere defeatism. It attempts to solve the problem of traffic-jams by ignoring them, and living in a sort of life of its own. In what Mrs. Cyprian Bowie, has well called "the street-tower," it should be clear, even to the Ministry of Transport, that the more no-way streets you have, the fewer are the streets left open to traffic. Singing heigh-ho and off to the fair.

Mistaken identity

Before the man could say a word, they charged him like a maddened herd. And, knocking him down, and trampling him, down, and almost tore him limb from limb. Then, laughing wildly through their tears, they ripped his clothes for souvenirs. And pulled the shoes from off his feet, and left him lying in the street. But one, whose wits were wide awake, feared there had been a slight mistake. And thus addressed the hideous chits: "Girls! The wrong stars been torn to bits."

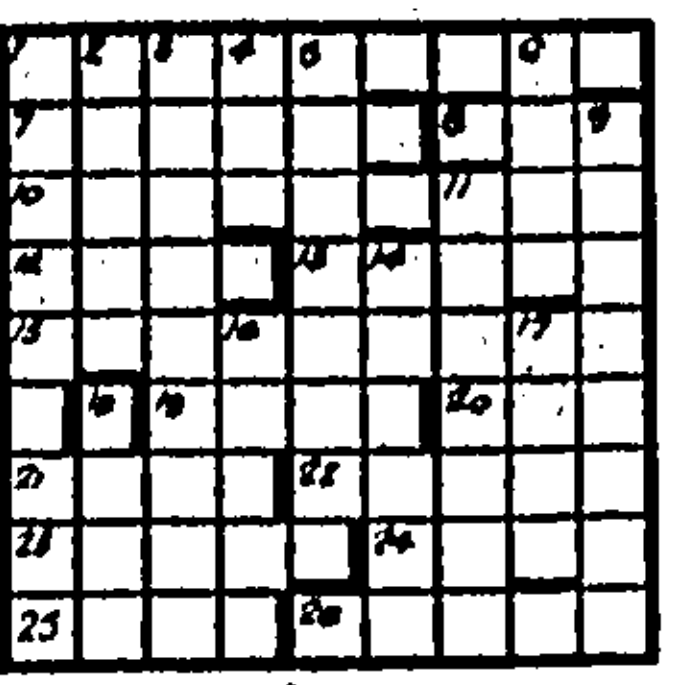
The Narkover strike

A STRIKE called by the captain of a public school Rugby team is unusual enough for comment. The Narkover team is on strike as a protest against the demand of the headmaster that a place in the team be found for a boy who is unable to pay the fee. The boy's father, in low water at present, is an old friend of Dr. Smart-Aleck, who promised that the boy should be in the team. He is quite a good wing three-quarter, but his inclusion would naturally be resented by boys who have to spend a great part of their earnings at cards on securing places in the team. A senior master suggested that the headmaster should advance the money to the boy's father, but Smart-Aleck replied that it is no part of the duties of a headmaster to lend money to parents for the purchase of places in teams.

Another household hint

How to bore holes in a wall. If irregular holes are wanted almost anything from a pen-holder to a stick of muslin will do. If the holes are to be regular, a Bradawl is best.

CROSSWORD

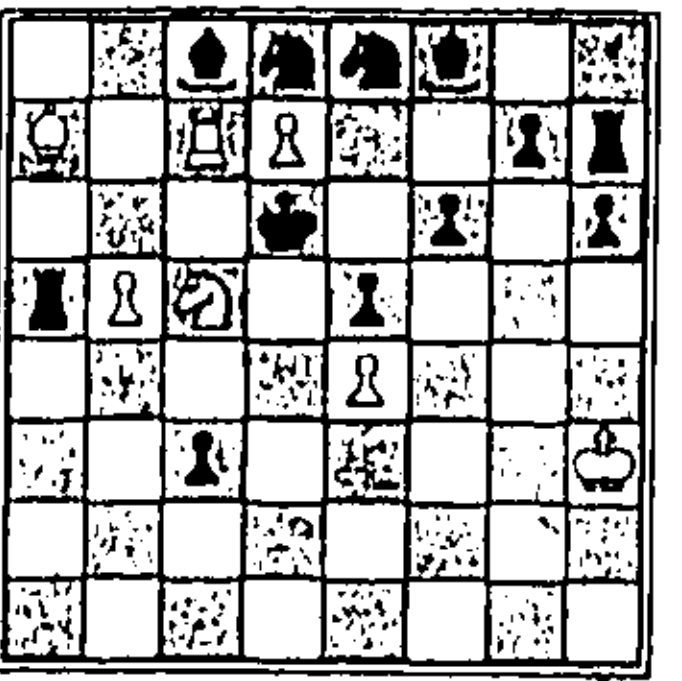


Across
1. Not a wink, these nights. (6)
7. It introduces the song about the yellow basket. (5)
8. The fish might pull some body's leg. (3)
10. Spare note might be made of this tongue. (9)
12. The girl at the end of the umbrella. (4)
13. His delight made a play. (5)
15. You're apt to run into something if this is out. (4, 9)
19. The witch's high one is at midnight. (4)
20. Quick one is in your toadskin maybe. (3)
21. Supply is the 11 down one. (4)
22. Shifter towards the end. (5)
23. Mountains of the Danes—but not in Denmark. (5)
24. Otherwise from peck seen. (4)
25. If they have it, the Bill is not passed. (3)
26. Such a touching poem. (6)

Down
1. Sea guide—but nothing girlish. (6)
2. Tired town. (5)
3. Mix up pea in a sedan. (9)
4. It's in the middle where the creek ends. (3)
5. The Downy an' other were in steep place. (8)
6. And — (2, 2)
9. Can such a sooty deter lot? (8)
11. The programme may say the show is once this or twice. (7)
16. The snow in this way for Weymouth's page. (6)
17. Shoe is about to make more than one thing. (4)
18. Old time clown. (4)

CHESS PROBLEM

By U. LANCIA
Black, 12 pieces.



White, 7 pieces.
White to play: mate in two.
Solution to yesterday's problem:
1. Kt—R6, any; 2. B, Kt or P (=Q, or B) mates.

WOMANSENSE

Two-piece Ensemble For Spring



Pierre Billel presents for his Spring collection this two-piece ensemble known as "Lino-wood" in pearl-grey and white. The large brimmed straw hat is in green. — Agence France-Presse.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

When sweeping a large room, do one section at a time, taking up the dirt in a dust pan before sweeping the next section.

When decorating a dining table for a luncheon or dinner, do not use flowers that have a heavy odor, as this may be disagreeable to some of the guests. Also choose flowers appropriate for the occasion of the meal, and that will harmonize with the predominant colors of the room and table settings.

If the table is small, the centerpiece should be small; if the table is long and narrow, the centerpiece should suggest the same proportions. A centerpiece should be sufficiently low so that the guests can see each other across the table.

The Child Who Is Afraid Of Everything

By GARRY C. MYERS, Ph.D.

THINK of all the grown-ups you have known who are afraid to try new things, even to learn a simple "parlour" game or engage in some party fun. Such fears had their beginning long ago, often in infancy or early childhood.

From a Florida mother, comes a letter which tells vividly of her child 5½, who has an amazing number of fears of this sort.

MARKED FOR LIFE?
"Could these unfortunate experiences have marked him for the rest of his life?"

"He is afraid of almost everything one can think of," she says, "and chiefly of trying anything in which he might not excel."

"Knowing that there was to be an egg hunt at kindergarten next day, he didn't want to go to school, lest he wouldn't find any eggs and the children would laugh at him. Another day, he refused to go to school for fear he wouldn't know how to play the new game the teacher had promised to show them."

WON BY ACCIDENT

"Having won a certain game by accident, he would not play it again lest he might not win. One day he ran from class to the bathroom, when his class were supposed to copy numbers. Said he was afraid he couldn't do it."

"Another boy was showing him how to catch a ball and to hit it with the bat. He took the bat, then dropped it, saying: 'What if I miss?'"

"He refuses to go on the playground apparatus, or on any of the middle merry-go-rounds; refuses to approach any new child; refuses to go (even with me and a little friend) to any picnic or Sunday school where he is impossible."

My reply in part: The doctor and hospital experiences could have been factors, since your own fears about his fears have been so marked. But they are only a part of the picture. Obviously, you parents have tried so hard to protect him from all pain and discomfort that he has constantly practised at escape, and hasn't faced reality.

Apparently you have not pressed him to try new experiences nor set the stage so he would, nor let him fall at anything and take the consequences. No doubt when you raced or played anything with him, you saw that he always won. You didn't let him take the normal bumps.

The way ahead for you parents and this child is hard. Either you or some other person will have to harden him gradually, and to do so will require no end of skill.

In some instances, you will have to force him to make the first try, take the first leap and meet and play with new children. It is most important for him to spend more time with other children of his age; with one at first, and more later. At best his improvement will be slow, but his approach and normal courage should not be impossible.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Blackie's Table Manners

—Even for a Kitten, They're Very Bad Indeed—

By MAX TRELL

"NOW there's one thing you don't know," Hamid, the shadow-girl with the turned-about name, said; "It's table manners. You really don't know them at all, Blackie. You're the most untable-mannered kitten in the whole world, I guess."

Blackie the kitten was sitting in the middle of the rocking chair, right in the middle of the spot of sunlight. She blinked up at Hamid but she didn't say anything.

Instructing A Kitten

Hamid made her move over a little and sat down beside her. "I don't suppose," Hamid went on, "that you've ever heard of table manners; have you, Blackie?"

Blackie didn't say whether she had or she hadn't.

"Table manners, my dear Blackie, are the manners you're supposed to have when you're sitting at table. For instance, it means that you don't eat soup with a fork, or stir your pudding with a knife. Do you understand?"

How could Hamid know whether Blackie understood or not? She just kept blinking up. "Now there's one rule in table manners, Blackie, that no one ever disobeys... not even a kitten. You may be sure that anyone who does disobey it, has the worst table manners in the world. And this rule is table

manners that no one ever disobeys is—Never walk on the table!"

Very Bad Manners

Hamid waited for a minute or two for the blink in Blackie. "It's bad table manners to walk on the table," Hamid repeated.

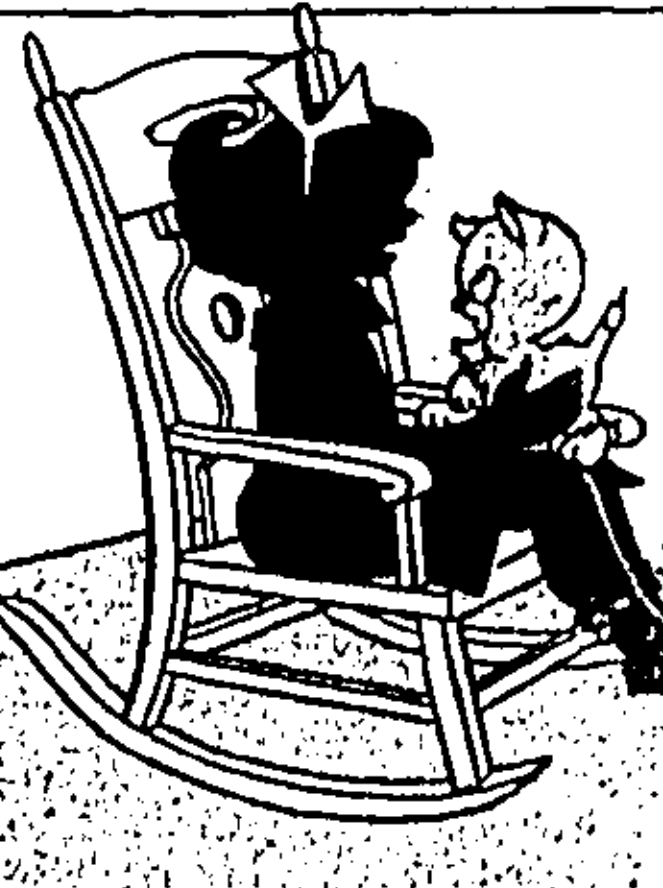
Blackie looked at Hamid with an expression on her little face that seemed to say: "Did I ever walk on the table, Hamid? You must be mistaken. When did I ever walk on the table?"

"You walked on it yesterday. I saw you myself," said Hamid. "I'll tell you just when it happened. Mother and Father and the children had just finished their dinner. Mother was just going into the kitchen with some of the dishes when... without a sound... quick as a flash... you sprang from the floor, the chair, and from the chair right up to the top of the table!"

Hamid paused to see if Blackie was listening. She was. "Then what did you do, Blackie? You walked up and down the table as though it were a sidewalk. On one of the plates you found a fish bone. Oh, how bright your eyes shone! When you eyed that fish bone, you snatched it up in your teeth."

A Naughty Kitten

"Now it was bad enough," continued Hamid, "to jump upon the table and find a piece of fish

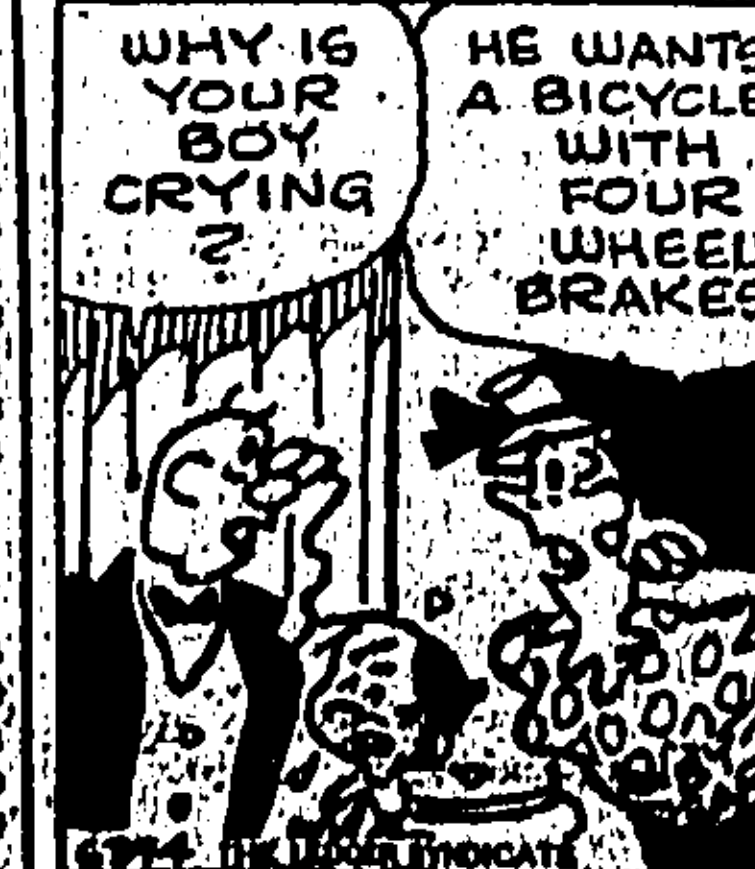


Hamid sat in a rocking chair, lecturing to Blackie, the kitten.

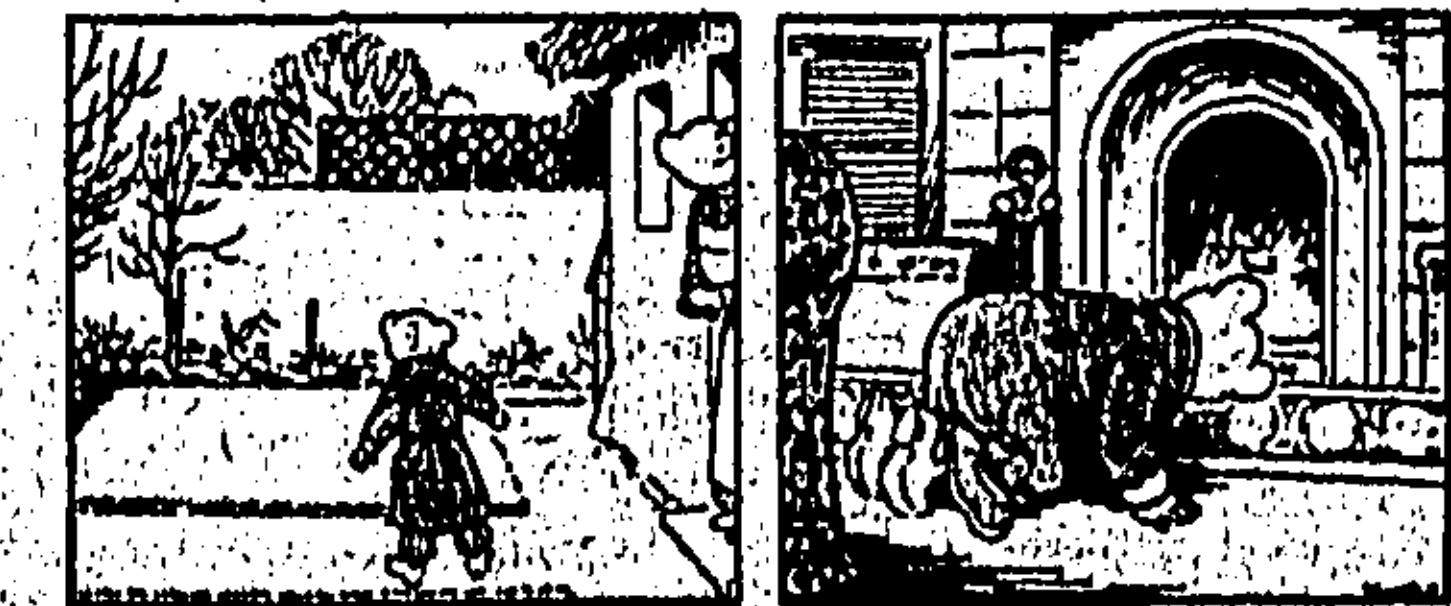
bone. That was really very bad table manners! But you did something even worse. Instead of eating the fish bone on the plate, which is what a good, table-mannered cat would have done, you heard Mother returning from the kitchen and instantly sprang down from the table with the fish bone in your mouth. If there's anything worse than jumping upon a table, Blackie, it's jumping down from a table!"

Blackie listened to this whole story without a single word of protest. She just lay there blinking up at Hamid and finally Hamid walked off not knowing whether Blackie intended to improve her very bad table manners or (which is more likely) didn't understand a word of what Hamid had said.

DUMB-BELLS



Rupert and the Magic Ball—7



When he has recovered from his astonishment at the strange behavior of the parcel, Rupert ran out of the house. There was no sign of it, he called. "What can it all mean?" Mrs. Bear-brings him in out of the cold and says for me. But how did it come?

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TO BE FIT FOR CYCLING FIRST ATTAIN ALL-ROUND FITNESS

Says "NTACA"

Perhaps no subject in the world of cycling has invoked more controversy than the vexed question of training methods. The two extreme schools of thought can be recognised as the old idea that "Cycling is the only Training for Cycling," and the modern concept which necessitates a rider being a dietician, physiologist and expert in "Bio-Rhythmics," as well as a pusher of pedals. My own taste, based on my own and others' experience, is eclectic and can be summed up in the phrase, "To be fit for Cycling, first attain ALL-ROUND Fitness."

The prime requisite for particularised cycling fitness is complete organic fitness, the perfect functioning of the bodily mechanism which is best achieved by a long and thorough tuning-up process, known to the initiated as "getting the miles in."

Regular, long rides, on a fairly low gear at reasonably fast pace will do much to get the rough off and prepare the body to the more exacting tasks to follow.

Starting off with two or three evening runs a week of up to 30 miles, with a longer spell on Sunday, the distance should be gradually increased until about 300 miles a week are being covered, all at a steady pace. This will build up the stamina necessary to enable you to obtain the utmost benefit later.

ADDITIONAL EXERCISES.
The question of additional exercise crops up frequently and my advice is to perform every day a few exercises for the abdominal and lower back muscles. These two areas often feel weak and it is a good idea to make this form of exercise, together with some deep breathing movements, a regular routine throughout your life.

NOTICE

THE HONG KONG
JOCKEY CLUB

ANNUAL RACE MEETING
1955

15th, 19th and 22nd January
and
Hong Kong Derby —
9th April, 1955.

Draft Programmes and Entry Forms for the above may be obtained at the Secretary's Office, Alexandra House; the Club House, Happy Valley; and the Stables, Shan Kwong Road.

Entries close to the Secretary, Alexandra House, 8th Floor, at NOON on Tuesday, 4th January, 1955.

Please enclose the entry form in the green envelope provided.

By Order of the Stewards,
H. MISA,
Secretary.



HARRY
ODELL
says

For many here, perhaps the chance of a life-time to hear as great a pianist as **JULIUS KATCHEN**, and at the popular price of \$4.70. I do not believe that a genuine music lover or student of music will find this price high for such a great artist. Please book now at the

EMPIRE THEATRE
Town Booking Office,
Shell House, side lane.

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They are the first places in which a man's inevitable physical decline is manifest. The drinking of alcoholics and smoking of tobacco are not the main-killers we have been led to believe and may be indulged in with moderation without any apparent deleterious effect.

After about three months of the tuning-up training, speed work can commence. On two evenings a week you should include in a 20 miles burst of fast riding, around the 24 miles an hour mark, following this with supper, a bath and bed.

Another important point is adequate sleep. An excellent maxim is "Seven hours for a man, eight for a woman and nine for an athlete. With as much of it as possible before midnight."

It is a well-known fact that the Continental cranks spend as much as ten to twelve hours a day in bed during the racing season. If anyone should know, they should. This basic training system will take you for any type of cycling but of course there are special points for those participating in massed start or track events. These will be given in a future article.

PRIZE LIST GROWS.
The prize-list for the Three-Day race continues to grow, the latest being the donation of a Hercules Cycle by that firm's proprietors, to be the first prize for all-round performance. This is a truly magnificent gesture and one well appreciated by all local riders who know the quality of these machines. In addition, various gear manufacturers have sent mechanisms to be awarded as consolation prizes.

Portuguese Army Riders from Macao have been invited to participate and it is hoped that the offer, made by the date in your diary, the Events of the Year, January 28, 29 and 30, 1955.

On one subject at least are the Colony cyclists united. My question of the week brought many letters but only one answer. British riders are fully qualified to ride in the Continental Classics, or so say the local boys.

They will not win for many years yet, they may not even finish, but they will not disgrace the flag. The standards of competition and distance of the routes may prove too much for them this year—but it is only by competition with betters that they will improve.

So we all hope the differences of opinion about the home cycling bodies will soon be a thing of the past and that the Union Jack will be seen at the line-up in the Tour de France.

ON GEARS.
Another piece of advice, this time on Gears. A rider asks what gear he should fit for all-round racing in the Colony, a long-spread being planned. There is no road hill which cannot be climbed on a gear of 50 inches, and the maximum which is practicable for normal use is about 96. This gives a gear ratio of 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 11.0, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 12.0, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8, 12.9, 13.0, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6, 13.7, 13.8, 13.9, 14.0, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.8, 14.9, 15.0, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, 15.8, 15.9, 16.0, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.8, 16.9, 17.0, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 18.0, 18.1, 18.2, 18.3, 18.4, 18.5, 18.6, 18.7, 18.8, 18.9, 19.0, 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.4, 19.5, 19.6, 19.7, 19.8, 19.9, 20.0, 20.1, 20.2, 20.3, 20.4, 20.5, 20.6, 20.7, 20.8, 20.9, 21.0, 21.1, 21.2, 21.3, 21.4, 21.5, 21.6, 21.7, 21.8, 21.9, 22.0, 22.1, 22.2, 22.3, 22.4, 22.5, 22.6, 22.7, 22.8, 22.9, 23.0, 23.1, 23.2, 23.3, 23.4, 23.5, 23.6, 23.7, 23.8, 23.9, 24.0, 24.1, 24.2, 24.3, 24.4, 24.5, 24.6, 24.7, 24.8, 24.9, 25.0, 25.1, 25.2, 25.3, 25.4, 25.5, 25.6, 25.7, 25.8, 25.9, 26.0, 26.1, 26.2, 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150.9, 151.0, 151.1, 151.2, 151.3, 151.4, 151.5, 151.6, 151.7, 151.8, 151.9, 152.0, 152.1, 152.2, 152.3, 152.4, 152.5, 152.6, 152.7, 152.8, 152.9, 153.0, 153.1, 153.2, 153.3, 153.4, 153.5, 153.6, 153.7, 153.8, 153.9, 154.0, 154.1, 154.2, 154.3, 154.4, 154.5, 154.6, 154.7, 154.8, 154.9, 155.0, 155.1, 155.2, 155.3, 155.4, 155.5, 155.6, 155.7, 155.8, 155.9, 156.0, 156.1, 156.2, 156.3, 156.4, 156.5, 156.6, 156.7, 156.8, 156.9, 157.0, 157.1, 157.2, 157.3, 157.4, 157.5, 157.6, 157.7, 157.8, 157.9, 158.0, 158.1, 158.2, 158.3, 158.4, 158.5, 158.6, 158.7, 158.8, 158.9, 159.0, 159.1, 159.2, 159.3, 159.4, 159.5, 159.6, 159.7, 159.8, 159.9, 160.0, 160.1, 160.2, 160.3, 160.4, 160.5, 160.6, 160.7, 160.8, 160.9, 161.0, 161.1, 161.2, 161.3, 161.4, 161.5, 161.6, 161.7, 161.8, 161.9, 162.0, 162.1, 162.2, 162.3, 162.4, 162.5, 162.6, 162.7, 162.8, 162.9,

'SPURS' v. ASTON VILLA



Brooks of 'Spurs' (second from left) makes an attack on the Aston Villa goal in the League match at White Hart Lane and a Villa defender heads the ball away. This match provided an interesting sidelight for the 'Spurs' team included Danny Blanchflower, their recent £30,000 capture from Aston Villa, who was playing against his old club in his first home game for Tottenham. The match ended in a one-all draw.

Consistency Counts Most For The League Short List For The Championship

Says TOM FINNEY

Last week I offered a short list for the FA Cup—Portsmouth, Chelsea, Manchester United, Huddersfield, Wolves and Preston. This week, with the League programme now in its second half, I offer you the same six as a short list for the Championship (plus two or three others), stressing my firm conviction that we cannot expect any of them to win both trophies. What Aston Villa achieved in 1896-97 seems to be almost impossible in these hectic days.

The first quality of a potential Championship side must be consistency. The Cup can be won by a short series of sudden spurts, aided by the luck of the draw, but not the League championship.

Consistency comes from sound tactics and good players in all positions. I like to see two first-class wing half-backs and two top-rate inside-forwards. They are the basis of success; the pivot around which the whole team revolves. If the tactics are outstanding, the wing half-backs and inside-forwards can often turn an average side into a successful one.

DEFENCE NEEDED

Another important quality in a side chasing a Championship is a strong defence.

A brilliant goalkeeper with three sound men in front of him can salvage a point when all seems lost. Points won away from home in that fashion are the "extras" that make a Championship or Cup victory possible. In recent years we saw the Swindon-Scott-Compton-Burnes combination do just that for Arsenal on many occasions.

Team spirit, too, is vital to success. You need a good manager and a good captain. They help to provide the will-to-win which gives a team the right complex from the kick-off.

The League tables as they stand now are obviously a pretty reliable reflection of ability. I expect all of us to have now played on every type of ground and, if the weather of the last four months could be repeated in equal doses in the next four months, I should expect very little change in the

ebb and flow of Championship chances.

OTHER POSSIBLES

I would like to add two teams to the six I have already mentioned as Championship possibilities: Sunderland and Manchester City. If Charlton Athletic happened to be a little less erratic, I would include them too.

Sunderland have been a fine side of individuals for a season or two. Now they have become a well-blended team with the ability to overrun the best of opposition.

Manchester City are producing a very fine type of football, with Don Revie, the centre-forward, playing behind the rest of his line. They may easily build on the experience gained in the first half of the season by shooting to the top, or at least close to it.

Wolves are plainly the Championship favourites but there is always the contingency of injuries which no one can foretell. The absence of a key player can completely upset a team, no matter how good the reserve strength.

I have seen very little Second Division or Third Division football this season and can only pass on to you the advice of three old soccer friends of mine, now managers, in saying—watch Blackburn and Stoke for promotion from Division II and Barnsley and Millwall from Division III.

Blackburn went very close to promotion last season and have most of the assets required for the Second Division Championship. They have a first-class manager in my old friend Johnny Carey and a side of great experience—Bobby Langford and Bill Eckerley are playing brilliantly—with youth represented by Ron Clayton, one of the game's outstanding young half-backs.

COACHING HINT

Don't play Soccer within three hours of taking a heavy meal. Be content with a poached egg or biscuits, if you want your team to win.

Old Boys Beat School At Cricket

The Annual Cricket Classic between the Old Boys of the Diocesan Boys' School and Present pupils, played on the School grounds on Monday, resulted in an overwhelming eight-wicket defeat for the ex-pupils.

A Dicks, bowling for the Present, skittled the Old Boys for 100 runs, and gathered seven wickets for 44 in doing so.

Djeng went on to distinguish himself by hitting up 54 in the School's turn at bat, and between him and A. Myatt, scored enough runs to ensure a quick win for the Present.

After victory was gained, the School continued to bat and reached 188 when the last man was sent back to the Pavilion.

The following are the scores:

Old Boys	
A.E. Low b Djeng	1
H. Ching b Djeng	23
G. Kent c Low b Djeng	7
G. Kent c Low b Djeng	7
G. Kent c Low b Djeng	7
G. Kent c Low b Djeng	7
G. Kent c Low b Djeng	7
G. Kent c Low b Djeng	7
G. Kent c Low b Djeng	7
G. Kent c Low b Djeng	7

Total 100

Bowling Analysis

A. Djeng	O	M	R	W
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A. Djeng	10	0	1	1
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A. Myatt	10	0	1	1
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A. Myatt	10	0	1	1
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A. Myatt	10	0	1	1
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A. Myatt	10	0	1	1
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A. Myatt	10	0	1	1
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AT HOLLYWOOD-ON-THE-TIBER

The Most Beautiful Girls In The World Now Head For Rome

By JOHN WREN

Rome.

"British movie actresses are so dull—oh, so dull. No figures. Hair like chewed straw. Any little Italian housemaid is more glamorous than the highest-paid British stars."

The scene was Rome's Hollywood-on-Tiber, celluloid factory of the world's most luscious lovelies.

The speaker was an Italian director who has helped make La Lollo (Gina Lollobrigida), La Pampam (Silvana Pampanini) and others.

As I watched the galaxy of beauty around me I felt like agreeing with the Italian. Gorgeous girls with dark, shoulder-length hair were swishing between dressing-rooms and cameras by the dozen, and I seemed in real danger of being run down by the graceful, long-legged creatures.

Assuredly they were matchless for looks. I had never seen film stars anywhere to compare with them—and certainly not in Britain.

"You know the mistake British studios make?" the Italian director said. "They worry too much about acting. We only worry about beauty. We pick our stars from waitresses, shop-girls. The most beautiful flowers do not always grow in the cultivated parks you know."

TWO SURPRISES

That brought me to surprise Number One in the flourishing new Italian film industry: The voices of most of Italy's top actresses are "dubbed"—in their own language for home consumption!

The voices Italian film fans hear are those of trained stage actresses. Most of the film stars have rough, uneducated accents, or dialects which would not be understood by thousands of their compatriots.

Surprise Number Two:

Films proceed at a snail's pace because the "actresses" often cannot act. They are moved by the director, like the bewitchingly beautiful puppets that they are!

"Acting?" continued my director friend. "A good director can make an actress out of any woman—if she is beautiful enough."

But I took him up on the subject of British girls as I remembered, after all, that I had seen some who gave the lie to his sweeping criticisms. What about Joan Collins? When this very shapely, very lovely London girl was in Rome recently to play in "Land of The Pharaohs" she needed police protection to keep back the Roman wolves.

What about blonde Barbara Shelley? Her beauty and glamour, plus acting ability, have earned this fair Briton roles in half-a-dozen Italian films and a part in Italy's biggest, all-beauty musical revue.

What about Hedda Linton? Hedda gave up studying chemistry in London. University to become a star. As lovely as any Italian, Hedda is fast reaching

the top in Rome's Hollywood-on-Tiber. Even Britain-hating Communist papers use Hedda's beauty to brighten their dull pages.

What about Tamara Lees? This raven-haired Briton is making her 31st Italian film. In nearly all of them she is the wicked "other woman" who snatches the man from the arms of the nice girl.

But the director had an answer for me:

"Yes, but why are all these girls filming in Italy, and not Britain?" he countered. "It is because we Italians recognise beauty. British studios only recognise an acting diploma. That is why the most beautiful girls in the world now head for Rome."

Motorcycling Ace Breaks Six World Records

Rome, Dec. 29.

The Italian motorcycling ace, Ghio, on a 75 c.c. Ceccato, smashed six world records in Rome yesterday.

The speed records broken were for the flying kilometre in 26.76 seconds with an average speed of 134 kilometres per hour. The previous record was established in 1952 by the Italian, Botticelli, on an Alpino in 28 seconds at an average speed of 129 kilometres an hour.

The other records broken were:

The kilometre standing start in 38.77 seconds with an average speed of 92 kilometres per hour. The previous record was set up by the Italian, Magliano, in 1949 in the time of 40.08 seconds with an average speed of 89 kilometres per hour.

The mile flying start in 43.00 seconds with an average speed of 134 kilometres per hour. The previous record was set up earlier this year in 45.05 seconds averaging 128 kilometres an hour.

The mile standing start in 56.01 seconds with an average speed of 103 kilometres per hour. The previous record was 59.04 seconds with an average speed of 98 kilometres per hour. This also establishes a new record for the 100 c.c. category. —France-Press.

Home Rugby Results

London, Dec. 28. Results of Rugby Union matches played today were:

Bristol 9, Old Merchant Taylors 6.
Cardiff 8, Watsons 0.
Gloucester 3, University Athletic Union 4.
Leicester 13, Barbarians 22.
Newport 9, Ebbw Vale 8.
Northampton 10, Metropolitan Police 0.

Swansea 9, London Welsh 6.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Results of Rugby League matches played today were:

Huddersfield 22, Bramley 18.
Leeds 9, Rochdale Hornets 9.
Oldham 27, Salford 0.—Reuter.

HARRY ODELL says

For many here, perhaps the chance of a life-time to hear as great a pianist as JULIUS KATENAS, and at the popular price of \$4.70. I do not believe that a genuine music lover on student of music will find this price high for such a great artist. Please book now at the

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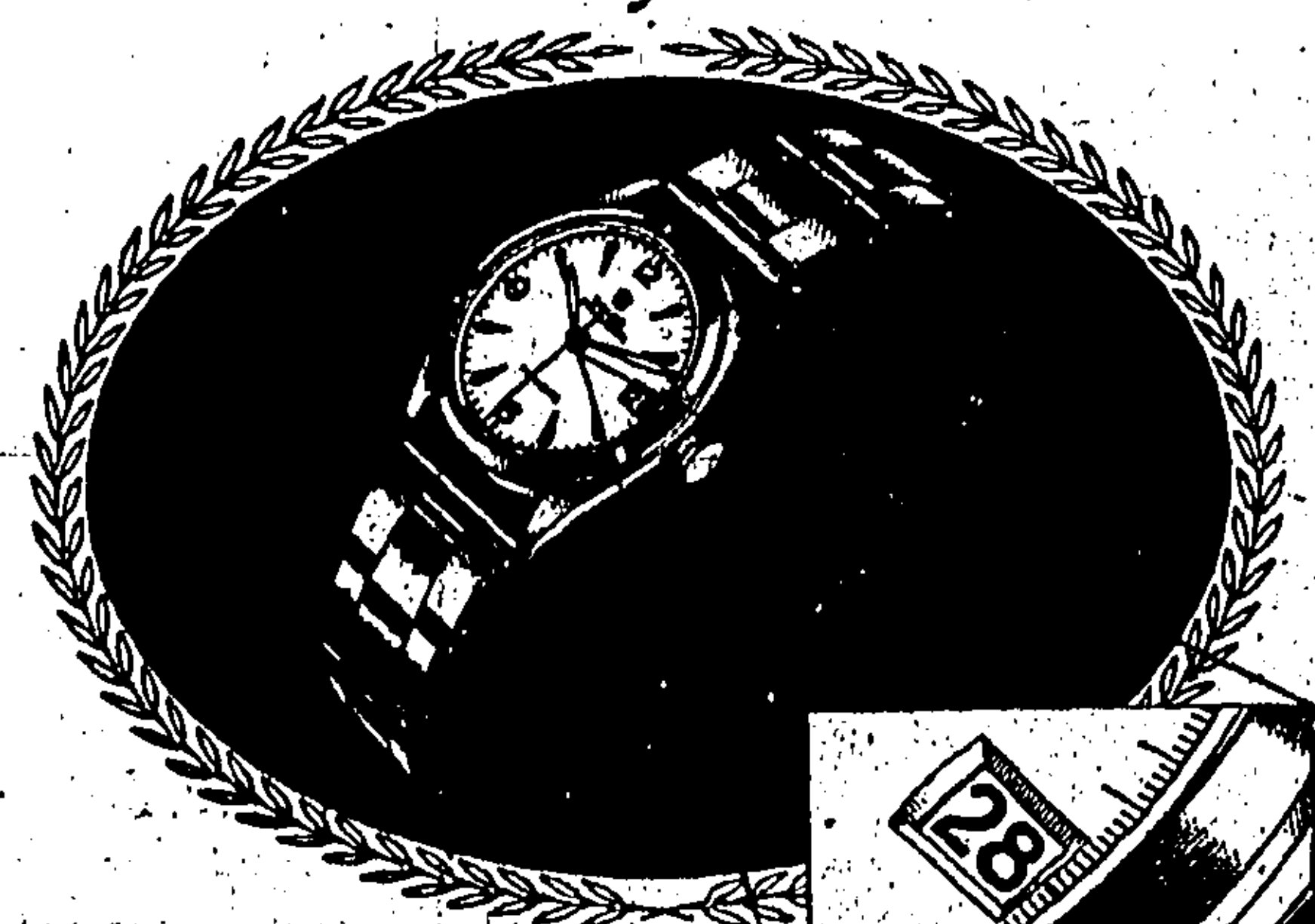
NIGHT CLUB

Dance Music from 11 p.m. — 2 a.m.
New Year's Eve from 10 p.m. — 2 a.m.

PLEASE BOOK EARLY FOR YOUR NEW YEAR PARTY

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NBA Declares Valdes Logical Contender For Heavyweight Title

Milwaukee, Dec. 28.

The National Boxing Association today declared Nino Valdes of Cuba the logical contender for Rocky Marciano's world heavyweight title.

In their winter ratings the Association named Don Cockell, the British Heavyweight Champion, and Ezzard Charles, former world title holder, as "outstanding boxers" in this division.

The Association confirmed that they no longer recognised Sandy Saddler (United States) and Robert Cohen (France) as respective holders of the world featherweight and bantamweight titles, which the NBA declared vacant.

Mr. Fred Saddy, Chairman of the NBA Championship Committee, said that Saddler was deprived of the featherweight title because he had not defended it since 1951.

The Association had withdrawn recognition of Cohen because he allegedly "violated" terms of a contract requiring him to meet Raton Martin. Martin is a Mexican boxer of the North American Championship.

Mr. Saddy added, however, that Cohen and Martin were the only logical contenders and if they met the NBA would declare the winner champion.

Yoshio Shirai of Japan, who lost his world flyweight title to Argentinian Pascual Perez last month, headed the list of logical contenders in the NBA list for this division.

Other contenders named were Leo Espinosa (Philippines) and Leo Dower (Wales). Listed as "outstanding boxers" in the flyweight class were Nazario Cianelli (Italy), Eric Mazzoni (England), Danny Kida (Philippines) and Tuffy Camp (Philippines). —Reuter.

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"CHUNAN"	2nd Feb. 1955	6th Feb. 1955
"CARTAGE"	10th Mar. 1955	14th Mar. 1955
"CORFU"	2nd Apr. 1955	7th Apr. 1955

Via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore

Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CANTON"	14th Jan. 1955	14th Feb. 1955
"CHUNAN"	2nd Feb. 1955	2nd March 1955
"CARTAGE"	10th Mar. 1955	14th March 1955
"CORFU"	14th Apr. 1955	14th Apr. 1955

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"SUDAN"	leaves 10th Jan. for S. P. Swettenham, Penang, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Genoa, Marseilles, Havre, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam & Hamburg
"SOMALI"	leaves 10th Jan. for Kobe, Yokohama & Osaka
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NOTICE

H.M. DOCKYARD,
HONG KONG

An examination for entry as local Clerk, Grade III will be held in H.M. Dockyard, Hong Kong, on Thursday, 10th February 1955.

2. Intending candidates must be between the ages of 18 and 30 years and must be British subjects. Production of a birth certificate or satisfactory equivalent will be required.

3. A limited number of places at this examination are available, and a form of application for competition together with conditions of entry may be obtained from

The Secretary,
H.M. Dockyard,
Hong Kong.

by written request before Monday 17th January 1955. Envelopes should be marked "Examination — Section B".

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

S.S. "TAIPING"
Arrived 26th December, 1954

Damaged cargo on this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at Hong Kong & Kowloon. Wharf Godown at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 30th December and Friday 31st December, 1954, and consignees' representatives are requested to be present during survey.

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"VIETNAM" sailing Dec. 31st
"CAMBODGE" sailing Feb. 25th

FAST FREIGHT SERVICE

"MEKONG" (1) sailing Jan. 9th
"DONAI" sailing Feb. 11th
(1) will call at London

47 KILLED IN LANDSLIDES

Bogota, Dec. 28.
Official reports from Quibdo in Northwestern Colombia said today that fatalities from recent landslides in the El Carmen area had reached 47.

Because of the threat of new slides, several settlements in the vicinity have been evacuated, it was added.

Damage caused by the slides was estimated to exceed \$250,000.

Relief parties were rushed to the stricken area from Quibdo, capital of El Choco Department. —United Press.



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Town Booking Office,
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Rayon Works For Formosa

New York, Dec. 28.
The Von Kohnen International Corporation of New York, builders and operators of rayon factories, today announced the conclusion of a contract and financial arrangements under which a \$5,000,000 rayon factory would be constructed on Formosa.

The factory would be owned by a group of Chinese textile manufacturers who had formed the China Artificial Fibre Corporation and were receiving the support of the Nationalist Chinese Government. Most of the machinery was to be supplied by Von Kohnen from Japan, where its equipment is manufactured by its Japanese licensee. The Export-Import Bank of Japan had agreed to finance the deliveries.

Construction of the factory will start early in 1955 and production is scheduled for April 1956. Four million pounds weight of filament yarn, will be produced annually. —Reuter.

Crime Wave Warning By FBI Chief

New York, Dec. 28.
The FBI chief, J. Edgar Hoover, said today that one of every 18 American teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17 was a juvenile delinquent.

"If this trend continues, we shall face a crime wave of grave proportions during the late 1950s and early 1960s," wrote Mr. Hoover in the American Magazine. "The teen-age population is about to rise spectacularly because of a much higher birth rate during the war years."

Mr. Hoover warned that if juvenile delinquency was not checked, "the next generation will witness a total of more than 41,800,000 larcenies, 15,800,000 burglaries, 7,400,000 automobile thefts, 2,000,000 robberies, 3,000,000 aggravated assaults, and more than 200,000 Americans will be murdered." —United Press.

Our Skin Protects Us From The Outside World

Standing guard night and day to protect us against the outside world is our skin. It resists heat and cold alike, so that the body can maintain a constant, even temperature. As long as it remains intact, dangerous germs can enter the body only with great difficulty.

The skin has definite functions. It is one of our most important conveyors of sensation; not only does it receive the impacts of the outside world, but also its nerves signal to the body and the brain the nature of that contact. It registers the temperatures of wind and water and whatever else touches it; it reports on the textures of things, its sense of movement, vibration, even certain kinds of sound that our ears cannot hear — just as the heat that it detects is really a form of "light" our eyes cannot see. It also detects an injury with its rich supply of pain-sensitive nerves.

Exposed to constant attack, the skin is subject to damage and illnesses of many kinds. First, any injury from an outside source — from blows, wounds, chemicals, extremes of temperature, or invading germs from inside the body, including emotional disturbances, internal infections, or faulty nutrition.

Finally, disturbances resulting from a combination of outside and inside influences; for example, allergic disorders caused by the body's unusual sensitivity to certain substances.

ORDINARY WOUNDS

The ordinary wound is important mainly as a gateway for disease germs. The only important bacteria that can penetrate the unbroken skin are the staphylococci which cause boils and carbuncles. Other germs must wait for the defending wall to be breached. The break, however, need not be large. Scratches so small they go unnoticed can lead to serious illness by allowing minute microbes to enter the body.

Protection of the skin from infections is a matter of simple cleanliness, and of promptly

treating cuts and abrasions, no matter how minor they may seem. If, in spite of such precautions, an infection does develop, modern medicine usually can cope with it.

The reactions of the skin to diseases inside the body are often specific enough to tell the physician just where to look for the trouble. A bluish tinge to the skin, for instance, usually means that something may be wrong with the heart. Scarlet fever, measles and chicken pox cause the skin to break out in various types of rash, each of which tells its own story to the doctor. And, of course, the skin shows many general signs, such as sweating and pallor, when things go awry internally. Some internal disorders affecting the skin also affect the mind. For instance, in some forms of pellagra (a nutritional disease caused by a deficiency of niacin, one of the B vitamins) not only does the patient's skin show eruptions, but he may imagine also that miles are biting him. Both the eruptions and the delusions vanish with treatment.

MORE STARTLING

A more startling phenomenon is the so-called leprosy, or "old leprosy," in which the skin one part of the body imitates a condition found on another part. A fungus infection of the toes, for instance, may be followed by apparently identical outbreaks on the hands, even though the hands have never touched the original infection.

The skin is not only a great barrier protecting our bodies from external attack, but it also serves as a mirror of what is happening within. The more we learn of the signs that are shown in this mirror, the better we will know how to deal with diseases not only of the skin, but also of the entire body.

★ ★ ★

In treating certain kinds of crippling disease, doctors are frequently faced with a severe problem. To aid recovery, the patients need to exercise. But they may be in no condition to leave their beds without being carried. If they are to do exercise, they must do it lying on their backs. Because his wife, a victim of multiple sclerosis (crippling nerve disease), was in this condition, a US inventor decided to do something about it.

He built a machine called a restorator, which works like the pedals on a bicycle. It is portable, since it weighs only twenty pounds. Ten kids, attached to the bed at home, it allows patients to exercise their limbs while lying flat on their backs. In the past, they have had to be taken to hospitals where there was special equipment for such exercise.

★ ★ ★

The fencer has the longest active life in his sport of any Japanese athlete, research workers at Kyushu University report. He carries on, on the average, for more than 25 years. Jockeys, Drs N. Saruta and T. Kawazoe found, stay in the saddle an average of 22 years, while the Japanese tennis player keeps going for 18 years, and the table-tennis player 16 years. Field athletes, on the other hand, average only eight active years, and the swimmer slightly less than nine.

These figures emerged from a study of the lives of nearly 5,000 persons participating in 12 different sports popular in Japan. The researchers also examined the reason why athletes retire. Decline in physical fitness, cuts off the careers of most wrestlers and jockeys, but is unimportant in retiring tennis players and fencers.

Commenting on the findings, the Canadian Medical Association Journal has suggested that similar studies in Europe and America might "be of value in dispelling a number of current myths about sports and sportsmen." —(ISPS).

Washington, Dec. 28.
The working committee of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization met in the State Department here today to discuss preparations for the SEATO Council meeting in Bangkok in February, authoritative sources said today.

The Committee is composed of representatives of the eight signatory members of SEATO: the United States, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Pakistan and the Philippines.

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



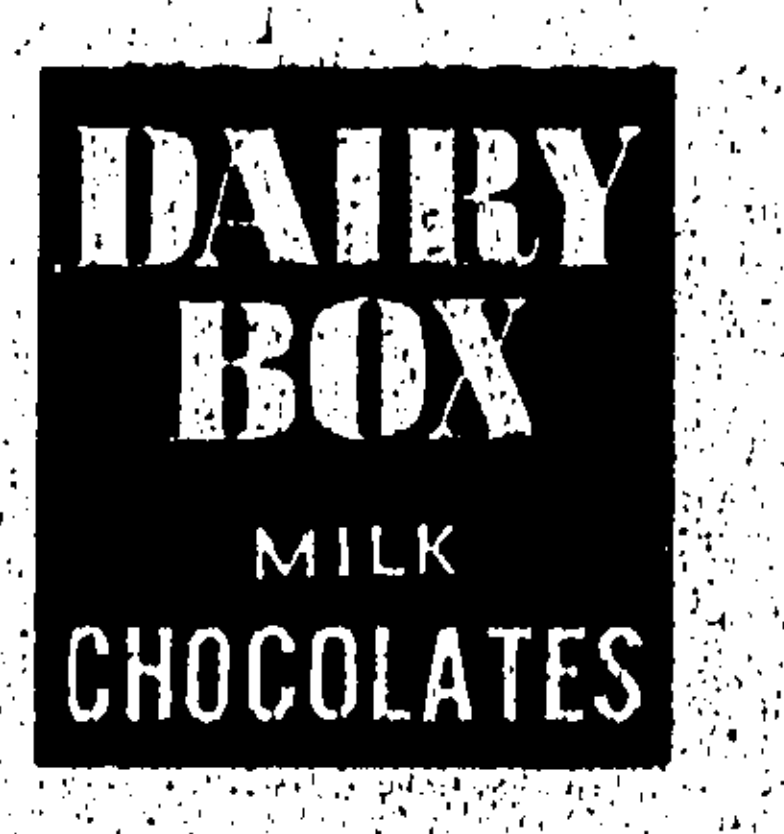
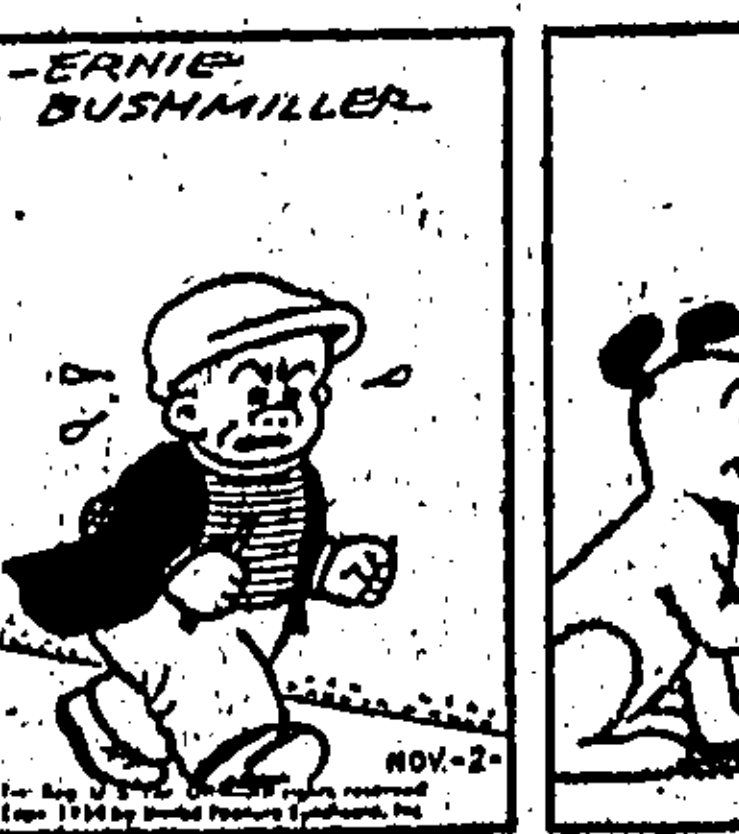
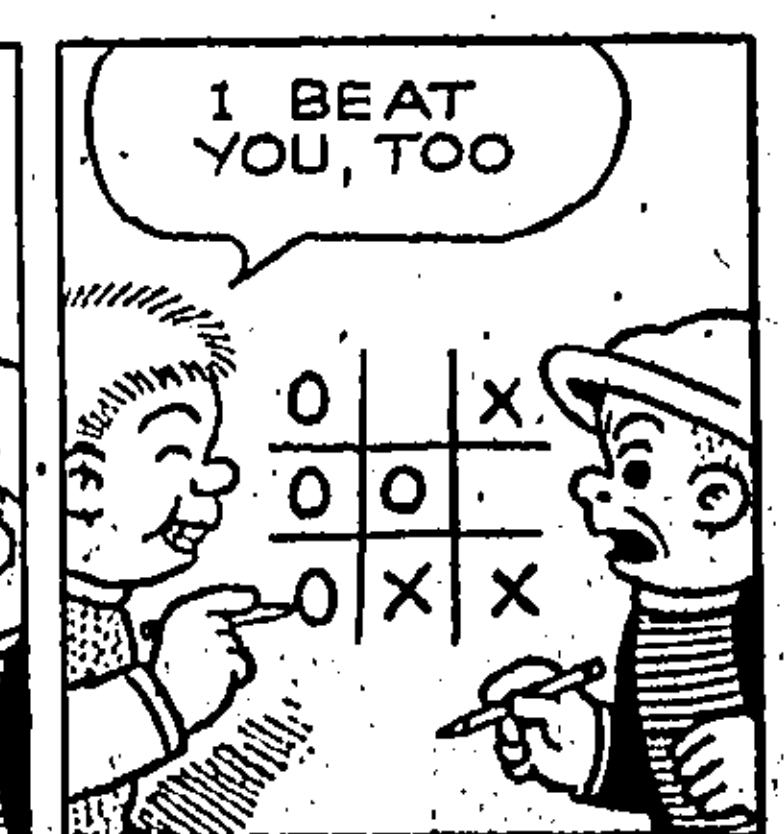
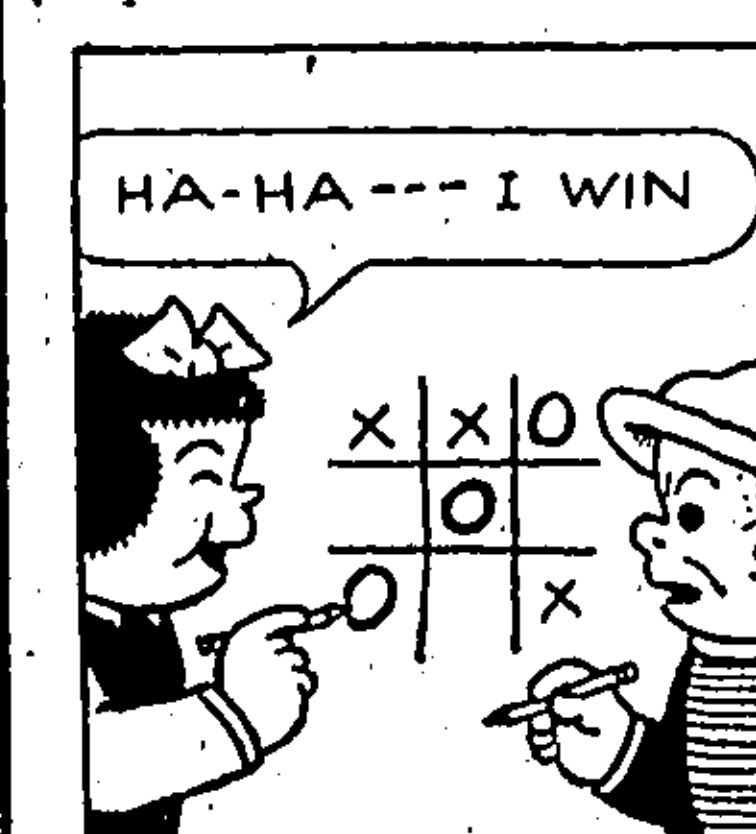
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By Milk



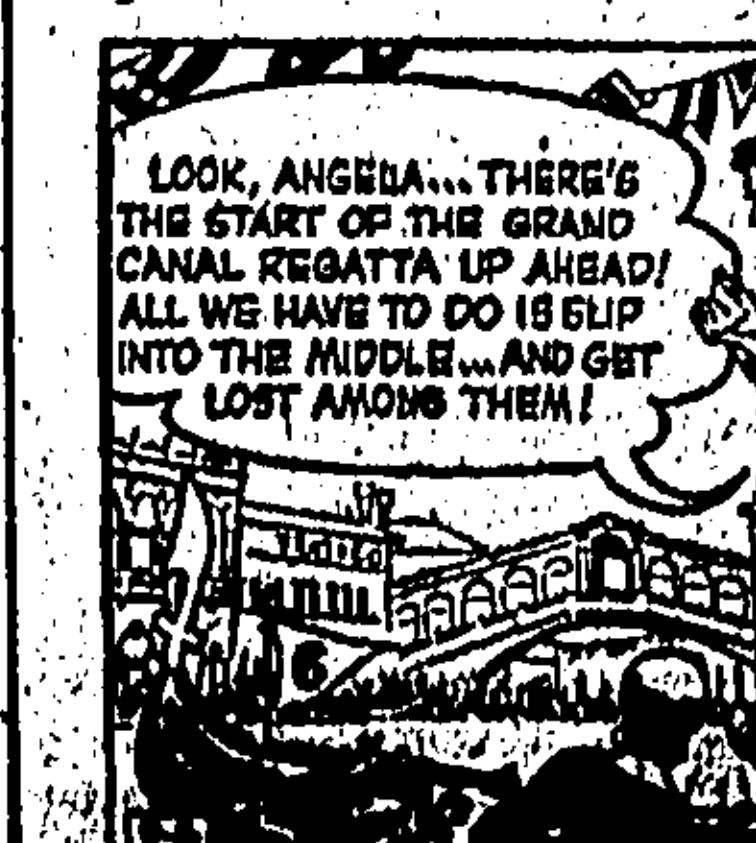
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